DAWN OF DC

SUPERMAN™

THE CHAINED

JOSHUA **WILLIAMSON** · GLEB **MELNIKOV**
DAVID **BALDEÓN** · BRUNO **REDONDO**

DC

SUPERMAN

VOL. 2 THE CHAINED

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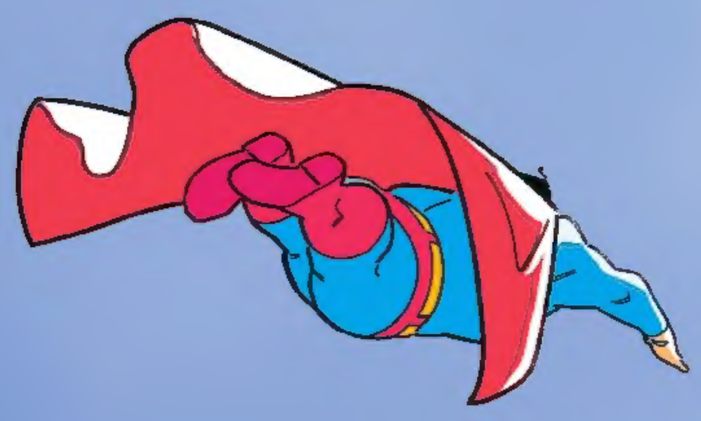
By special arrangement with the Jerry Siegel family.



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SUPERMAN VOL. 2: THE CHAINED

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Superman #6 cover
by JAMAL CAMPBELL

Superman #6 variant cover
by LEE BERMEJO

WHEEHOOO
WHEEEHOOOO

DOCTOR, ARE WE SURE WE DON'T WANT TO JUST... LET NATURE TAKE ITS COURSE?

GET OUT.

WE TOOK AN OATH, DAMMIT.

TO SAVE EVERYONE.

EVEN SOMEONE LIKE *LEX LUTHOR.*

HOLY HELL, THESE ARE *DEEP.* WE'RE GOING TO NEED A LOT OF BLOOD.

EEEEEEEEEE

EEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEE

...WE'RE LOSING HIM...

HE'S CRASHING!

TWO WEEKS LATER.

GOOD MORNING, METROPOLIS!

THIS IS LESLIE WILLIS, A.K.A. YOUR LETHAL NEIGHBORHOOD LIVEWIRE!

AND YOU'RE LISTENING TO ME STRAIGHT FROM MY PRISON CELL AT STRYKER'S WITH MY NEW *DAILY PLANET* PODCAST!

SHOUT-OUT TO MY GIRL WITH THE GOODS, EDITOR-IN-CHIEF **LOIS LANE,** FOR HOOKING ME UP WITH THE NEW GIG!

IT'S A BRIGHT AND SUNNY DAY IN THE CITY OF TOMORROW, OR SHOULD I SAY THE CITY OF **SECRETS?**

OOH SPOOKY!

OUR FAIR CITY HAS BEEN **SHOCKED** BY RECENT DEVELOPMENTS.

INCLUDING RESIDENT BAD BOY **LEX LUTHOR** GETTING HIMSELF SHANKED IN PRISON!

OUCH!

SO I GOTTA ASK THE OBVIOUS, FOLKS. IF SUPERMAN CAN'T PROTECT OUR CITY'S **WORST...**

...HOW CAN WE EXPECT HIM TO PROTECT OUR *BEST?*

VVVRROOMMM

BANG BANG BANG BANG BANG

CHASE THESE BULLETS, COPS!

BANG BANG BANG BANG BANG

SSSSSSS

YO, I THINK WE JUST TICKED OFF *SUPERMAN!*

HIT THE GAS, MAN!

I AM! WE'RE NOT GOING ANYWHERE!

METROPOLIS POLICE DEPARTMENT

THOOSH

TRSH

CRUNCH

THANKS, SUPERMAN.

MY TEAM AND I REALLY APPRECIATE YOUR--

WOOSH

THAT'S ODD, CHIEF.

NORMALLY SUPERMAN SLOWS DOWN TO CHAT...

AFTER WHAT HAPPENED TO ***LEX LUTHOR*** AT STRYKER'S, I THINK OUR ***MAN OF STEEL*** HAS A LOT ON HIS MIND...

OLSEN!

WERE YOU AIMING YOUR CAMERA WITH YOUR ***BOW TIE*** AGAIN? I NEED A BETTER PICTURE FOR THE FRONT PAGE THAN THIS!

DAILY PLANET

YOU GOT IT, MS. LANE!

HEY CHIEF! YOU GOTTA READ AND NOTE ERICA'S AND CAT'S STORIES.

AND LIVEWIRE'S ARTICLE HAS SO MANY TYPOS I THOUGHT ***YOU*** WROTE IT!

LANE, YOU NEED TO SIGN OFF ON MY BUDGET REQUESTS!

YOU NEVER APPROVED MY LAYOUT!

LALALALALALALA.

=SIGHHHHHH=

KNOCK, KNOCK.

IT'S NOT EASY BEING THE BOSS, *METROPOLIS.*

I JUST REALIZED I SHOULD HAVE BEEN CALLING YOU THAT THIS WHOLE TIME.

UGH.

IT'S FINE. I CAN HANDLE THE GIG.

I JUST...I FEEL LIKE I'M PART *BABYSITTER,* PART *THERAPIST,* AND LIKE...*MAYBE* PART EDITOR-IN-CHIEF. MY JOB IS KEEPING ME FROM DOING MY JOB.

SPEAKING OF WHICH...YOU OWE ME A STORY, *SMALLVILLE.*

I'M ALMOST DONE WITH THE PIECE ON LEX. I'LL JUST SAY... I'M HAVING WRITER'S BLOCK.

I CAN REASSIGN IT.

"BEFORE THEY MADE THAT MOVE, GRAFT WARNED ME ABOUT SOMETHING CALLED *'PROJECT: CHAINED.'* THAT IT WAS A SKELETON IN LEX'S CLOSET."

THE DOCTORS SAID HE'S STILL IN HIS COMA...

I CAN'T GET OVER IT. THOSE MONSTERS *PHARM* AND *GRAFT* MANIPULATED PARASITE AND SILVER BANSHEE, SETTING ME UP SO I COULDN'T HEAR LEX WHEN...

WE'RE LUCKY HE'S ALIVE.

I GOT THE RESEARCHERS ON IT, BUT THERE WAS NOTHING--

I DON'T WANT US USING *DAILY PLANET* RESOURCES FOR THIS, HONEY.

WELL... ARE YOU NOT IN CHARGE OF A WHOLE COMPANY NOW?

"...Supercorp."

SUPERMAN!

MR. SUPERMAN!

PLEASE, JUST CALL ME SUPERMAN. I...

HOW CAN I HELP YOU?

THERE IS SOMETHING I NEED TO SHOW YOU.

BEFORE, MR. LUTHOR WANTED ME TO FIND A WAY TO WEAPONIZE TOXIC WATER FROM HAZARDOUS SPILLS.

BUT NOW THAT WE'RE ***SUPERCORP,*** I'M INSTEAD CLOSE TO CREATING A WAY TO SEPARATE WATER AND DANGEROUS TOXINS EASILY AND ***QUICKLY.***

THIS COULD BE A REAL ***GAME CHANGER*** FOR DISASTER RELIEF.

THAT'S...

THAT'S TERRIFIC, DR. SHAWN.

GREAT WORK.

HE LIKED IT!
SCORE!
HE EVEN KNEW MY NAME!
YOU GOT YOUR **NAME TAG** ON, DORK.
SEE, YOU'RE A NATURAL **BOSS,** BIG BLUE.
Y'KNOW, WHEN MR. LUTHOR PUT YOU IN CHARGE OF THIS PLACE, HE ENVISIONED YOU SPENDING MORE TIME HERE, SUPERMAN. THE SCIENTISTS WOULD LOVE YOUR INSIGHT INTO OUR PROJECTS. THE WORK WE'RE DOING HERE COULD HELP THE **WORLD.**
I'M TRUSTING **YOU** TO RUN THE DAY-TO-DAY, MERCY... BUT WE CAN DISCUSS THIS LATER.
DID YOU INVESTIGATE THE **PROJECT: CHAINED** FILES?
I OPENED ALL THE OLD LEXCORP FILES AND FOUND **NOTHING.**
HOWEVER, THERE ARE **SOME** FILES BEHIND OUR SECURITY FIREWALLS THAT ARE ONLY ACCESSIBLE TO **MR. LUTHOR...** AND NOW **YOU.**
THEN HOW DO I GET TO THEM?
YOU MIGHT NOT LIKE THE ANSWERS YOU FIND, BUT...
...MR. LUTHOR **DID** LEAVE YOU A **RESOURCE** HERE TO HELP YOU WITH ANY QUESTIONS YOU MIGHT HAVE.
:SIGH...:
LL-01?

GOOD DAY, KAL-EL.

HOW CAN I BE OF SERVICE?

UNLOCK... *PROJECT: CHAINED.*

AND THEN TELL ME EVERYTHING ABOUT IT.

GLADLY, MY SON.

PROJECT: CHAINED WAS AN EARLY EXPERIMENT IN SECURITY BY MR. LEX LUTHOR. IT WAS IN COLLABORATION WITH ***CARL DRAPER*** AND ***SEBASTIAN STRYKER,*** THE FOUNDER OF ***STRYKER'S ISLAND PENITENTIARY.***

INTENDED TO HOUSE THE MOST DANGEROUS PEOPLE IN THE WORLD INDEFINITELY, IT WOULD KEEP THEM ***ALIVE*** WHILE ALSO RESTRAINING THEM IN DEEP SOLITARY CONFINEMENT, DEPRIVED OF ALL SENSES AND CONNECTIONS WITH THE OUTSIDE WORLD.

ONLY ***ONE*** VERSION OF THE PRISON CELL WAS COMPLETED, HIDDEN FOUR HUNDRED FEET BELOW STRYKER'S ISLAND.

A PRISON?

BUILT BY LUTHOR?

WAS ANYONE EVER HOUSED IN THIS PRISON?

ONLY ONE.

WHO IS STILL IMPRISONED, ALIVE AND CONTAINED WITHIN.

WHAT? WHO?

UNKNOWN.

WHO IS DOWN THERE, MERCY?

THAT'S BEFORE MY TIME, BOSS.

YOU CONVENIENTLY NEVER HAVE THE ANSWERS, DO YOU?

I KNOW WHAT YOU'RE THINKING, SUPERMAN.

BUT IF MR. LUTHOR DID LOCK SOMEONE UP AND THROW AWAY THE KEY, HE MUST HAVE HAD A REASON.

HERE. LOOK AT THIS.

YOU WANT TO TALK ABOUT KNOWING LEX LUTHOR, FINE. YOU AND I BOTH KNOW THAT IF HE SAW SOMEONE AS A THREAT HE WOULD KILL THEM, NOT KEEP THEM IN THE BASEMENT.

MR. LUTHOR DIDN'T JUST BUILD THE DAMN THING...HE BURIED IT AND CUT OFF ACCESS TO IT.

WHOEVER IS DOWN THERE...

"...THEY WERE NOT MEANT TO BE FREE..."

"KNOWING LUTHOR IT COULD BE AN INNOCENT PERSON

"EVEN WHEN I'VE USED THE PHANTOM ZONE IN THE PAST, IT WAS A LAST RESORT AND ONE THAT I HATED

"REGARDLESS OF HOW DANGEROUS THEY MIGHT BE

SHAAAZAKK

BRAAAM

LUTHOR DOES NOT GET TO BE THEIR JUDGE, JURY AND EXECUTIONER

MY GUT STILL TELLS ME THIS IS A ***BAD IDEA,*** SUPERMAN.

WE'RE TAKING PRECAUTIONS. ***YOU'RE*** HERE WITH ***SUPERCORP.*** I'VE ALERTED CHIEF KEKOA AND THE MSCU.

YOU SAY ***SUPERCORP'S*** MISSION IS TO HELP ME, RIGHT? WHAT BETTER WAY TO PROVE IT.

IF SOMEONE HAS REALLY BEEN TRAPPED INSIDE THIS CAGE FOR YEARS ON END, WE'RE GOING TO ***FREE THEM.***

OKAY...WELL, NO NEED TO SMASH YOUR WAY IN.

I CAN CONNECT ITS SECURITY TO SUPERCORP, AND AS THE HEAD OF THE COMPANY YOUR VERY PRESENCE WILL UNLOCK IT...

KLUNK

KLUNK

KLUNK

KLUNK

OH NO.

LEX...

...WHAT DID YOU ***DO...?***

MY NAME IS SUPERMAN...

I DON'T THINK HE CAN HEAR YOU... THAT HELMET...IT'S EXTREME SOLITARY, REMEMBER?

K-THUMP

HERE...

WHAT...?

MY NAME IS SUPERMAN.

...I HAVEN'T HEARD A VOICE... IN A LONG TIME...

I KNOW... I'M HERE TO HELP YOU...

THANK... YOU...

ONCE WE GET YOU TO AN INFIRMARY, SAFE AND SECURE... THEN I HAVE SOME QUESTIONS...

SUPERMAN...?

...SAVE ME...

LEX?

CAN YOU HEAR HIM? IS MR. LUTHOR AWAKE?

LEX...

...LUTHOR?

YOU WORK FOR...

...LEX LUTHOR?

CHING

CHING

CHING

CHING

RUMBLE...

I HATE TO SAY I TOLDJA SO...

HOLD ON, MERCY.

LISTEN TO ME. IF LEX LUTHOR HURT YOU...

RUMBLE...

AH!

KRROOM

STOP!

KRNCH

WE'RE TRYING TO HELP YOU!

SHAAAZAAAAK

HM.

IS THIS WHAT *HELP* LOOKS LIKE NOW?

BOOM

I WAS HOPING IT WOULDN'T COME TO THIS!

FWOOSH

KRSTH

DID LEX GIVE *YOU* POWERS, TOO?

KRUNCH

STOP!

WE REALLY DON'T NEED TO FIGHT! TALK TO US, PLEASE!

SMASH

COME WITH ME!

NO.

KLUNK-KLUNK

KLUNK

KLUNK

KLUNK

KLUNK

YOU STAY.

I GO.

UP.

THAT'S NOT GOOD.

MERCY!

YOU HEARD WHAT LL-01 SAID. MR. LUTHOR ONLY BUILT THIS *ONCE* TO HOLD ANYONE.

TO USE THEIR POWERS *AGAINST THEM.*

HM... IT'S BEEN SO LONG...

THERE IS ONLY *ONE PERSON* WHO CAN FREE YOU NOW...

LEX LUTHOR LOVES METROPOLIS.

AND METROPOLIS LOVES LEX LUTHOR.

IT MUST KNOW THE PAIN I HAVE ENDURED.

"AND THEN I DEAL WITH ***LEX LUTHOR.***"

SUPERMAN?! WHAT HAVE YOU DONE?!

Superman #7 cover
by JAMAL CAMPBELL

Superman #7 variant cover
by LEE BERMEJO

"I REMEMBER THE FIRST TIME I SAW HIM LIKE IT WAS YESTERDAY.

"THIS WAS BACK WHEN I WAS ON MY DISGUSTING CIGAR-A-DAY HABIT. I'D GO UP TO THE ROOF OF THE *PLANET* AND SMOKE MY FRUSTRATIONS AWAY.

"DON'T GET ME WRONG, I'D SEEN HIM IN OLSEN'S PICTURES. SAW A RED BLUR RUSH ACROSS THE SKY ONCE OR TWICE FROM MY OFFICE WINDOW.

"BUT IT AIN'T THE SAME. YOU KNOW WHAT THEY SAY...

"*SEEING* IS *BELIEVING.*"

GREAT CAESAR'S GHOST.

"AND IN THAT MOMENT..."

"...I BELIEVED A MAN COULD FLY.

"OVER THE YEARS I SAW SUPERMAN DO SO MUCH MORE THAN FLY. HE DIDN'T JUST STOP CRIMES OR SAVE LIVES...

"...HE ***SHOWED US*** HOW WE CAN BE THE BEST VERSIONS OF ***OURSELVES.*** HE TRANSFORMED OUR FAIR CITY INTO A SHINING BEACON OF HOPE FOR THE WORLD.

"AND AFTER SO MANY YEARS OF RUNNING THE ***DAILY PLANET*** WITH HIS GOOD DEEDS ON THE COVER, I WAS INSPIRED.

"SEEING SUPERMAN FLY SHOWED ME THAT WHAT I ONCE THOUGHT WAS ***IMPOSSIBLE*** WAS ***POSSIBLE.*** HE CHANGED MY WHOLE WORLD THAT DAY...AND IT'S TIME I HELPED RETURN THE FAVOR.

MY NAME IS ***PERRY WHITE...***

THE DAILY PLANET

...AND I'M RUNNING FOR MAYOR!

YOU GO, MR. WHITE!

EVEN THOUGH I DON'T THINK LOIS IS GONNA BE HAPPY...

RECENTLY I HAD A BIT OF A HEALTH SCARE. THOUGHT MY GOOSE WAS FINALLY COOKED.

AND I'M NOT ASHAMED TO ADMIT IT GAVE ME PAUSE. MADE ME RETHINK MY LIFE. REMINDED ME OF THE THINGS THAT ARE IMPORTANT TO ME.

MY *FAMILY.* AND THIS *CITY.*

I NEED TO BE PART OF METROPOLIS'S NEW TOMORROW.

I CAN NO LONGER JUST SIT IN MY OFFICE AND--

RUMBLE

IS THAT AN EARTHQUAKE?

WHOA!

WHAT THE--?

SOMETHING IS PULLING US *UP!*

STAY CALM, EVERYONE. STAY--

EEEIII!

PERRY, THEY JUST DROPPED OUTTA THE SKY!

HONEY, YOU SEE THAT UP THERE...? WHAT IS THAT FLYING?

METROPOLIS.

MY FATHER TRIED TO WARN ME ABOUT YOU.

TOO BAD HE'S GONE NOW...

SAMMY... STRYKER...?

PERRY.

LONG TIME.

IF ANYONE KNOWS WHERE *LEX* IS, IT'S *YOU.*

YOU WILL TELL ME.

HOW ABOUT YOU ANSWER SOME QUESTIONS FIRST?

LIKE WHO IN THE NAME OF *RAO* DO YOU THINK YOU ARE?

WHAT'S THE DEAL WITH ALL THE *CHAINS?*

AND ARE YOU READY TO PLAY NICE, OR IS THIS GOING TO GET *LOUD?*

NO.

I DON'T THINK SO.

I CAN'T MOVE!

<SAME HERE!>*

*TRANSLATED FROM MANDARIN. --PK

YOU ARE DRESSED LIKE THE *OTHER.*

THE ONE WHO *FREED* ME.

MAYBE *THIS* WILL HOLD YOU!

SLASH

IT DID THE TRICK, KARA!

<NOT A FAN OF THAT...>

YOU HOPE TO ENTRAP ME?

NEVER AGAIN!

BOOM

RUN!

WHERE IS SUPERMAN?

DEEP BENEATH STRYKER'S ISLAND PENITENTIARY.

GGRRRR.

SHOOT.

IT'S NO USE, BOSS.

MR. LUTHOR DESIGNED THAT MACHINE ***AND*** THOSE CHAINS TO USE SOMEONE'S POWERS ***AGAINST*** THEM.

THE MORE OF YOUR ***SUPER-STRENGTH*** YOU USE TO TRY TO ESCAPE, THE MORE IT USES THAT SAME STRENGTH TO HOLD YOU THERE.

WE NEED MR. LUTHOR. HE'S THE ONLY ONE WHO CAN FREE YOU NOW.

FIRST, THE CHAINED IS OUT THERE BECAUSE OF ***ME.*** AND EVERY MOMENT I'M TRAPPED ***HERE*** HE IS OUT ***THERE*** DOING GOD KNOWS WHAT.

I HAVE TO ***TRY.***

AND SECOND...

I DON'T NEED LUTHOR.

I CAN DO THIS ON MY OWN.

USE A TRICK AN OLD FRIEND TAUGHT ME.

VVVRRRRRRRRRRRRRR

VVVRRRRRRRRRRRRRR

ARE YOU...

ARE YOU ***VIBRATING?***

IT'S JUST GOING TO MATCH YOUR SPEED.

VVRRR

YOU SAID IT USES MY POWER AGAINST ME.

BUT I HAVE MORE THAN ***ONE*** POWER.

VVRRRRRRRRRRRRRR

WHOA.

"TELL ME NOW..."

WHERE IS LEX LUTHOR?!

LET'S GO, PEOPLE, FOLLOW ME. WE GOTTA LET THE SUPERS DO THEIR WORK!

WE NEED TO REPRIORITIZE BEFORE HE UPGRADES FROM THROWING ***BUSES.***

NATASHA, KENAN, CLEAR THE STREETS.

GET EVERYONE OUT OF THE AREA!

AND I'LL KEEP HIM BUSY!

WILL YOU?

NICE TRY. BUT US ***SUPERPEOPLE*** HAVE A HISTORY OF BREAKING CHAINS, BUDDY.

TRSH

IT HAS BEEN SO LONG SINCE I HAVE LET ANYONE GET THIS CLOSE.

GAK!

FASCINATING.

YOUR POWERS.

YOU ARE LIKE ***ME,*** BUT LIMITED. YOU HAVE NOT MET YOUR FULL POTENTIAL.

WHAT ***ARE*** YOU?

HE'S FAMILY!

KRAK!

YOU AGAIN.

LUTHOR MUST HAVE GIVEN YOU ***GREAT POWER*** IF YOU COULD ESCAPE THE PRISON THAT ONCE HELD ME.

I WARNED YOU BEFORE. WE DON'T WANT A FIGHT.

LET US ***HELP*** YOU.

HELP ME?

YOUR SYMBOL.

IT'S ON THE SAME BUILDING THAT LUTHOR BUILT.

AND ANYONE CONNECTED TO LEX LUTHOR...

...IS NO ONE'S FRIEND!

KRAK

BAM

TNG

THK

THK

THK

THK

WHOOSH

CRASH

SMK

SMK

I CAN SEE YOU'RE ANGRY.

HOW ABOUT A TIME-OUT?

I HAVE WAITED *YEARS* FOR THIS!

METROPOLIS MUST BE PUNISHED!

UMBLERUMBLERUMBLERUMB

AAHHH!

KARA, PEOPLE FIRST.

THEN WE GO ON THE ATTACK.

MY POWERS CAN KEEP THE BUILDINGS...

...IN PLACE...

...FOR NOW.

WHOOSH
WHOOSH
WHOOSH
WHOOSH
WHOOSH
WHOOSH
HM. INTERESTING, BUT...NICE...TRY...
IT'S TOO... MUCH...
CONNER, MOVE!
HM.

THIS IS A WASTE OF TIME.

BOOM

KAL?!

I'M OKAY. JUST RELIEVED WE WERE ABLE TO GET EVERYONE OUT OF THESE BUILDINGS.

WE CAN'T EVEN GET CLOSE TO HIM.

THIS IS IMPOSSIBLE.

NOTHING IS IMPOSSIBLE, KARA.

AS MUCH AS I HATE TO ADMIT IT...

...I KNOW EXACTLY WHAT WE NEED TO DO.

FOR NOW, WE HAVE TO LOCK HIM IN BACK UP IN THE PRISON THAT LUTHOR CREATED FOR HIM.

IT'S THE ONLY WAY TO CONTAIN HIS TELEKINESIS.

WAIT! THAT ISN'T HIS POWERS.

I FELT A CONNECTION TO HIM.

HE HAS *TACTILE TELEKINESIS.* LIKE ME.

"HOW IS THAT POSSIBLE?"

THE CITY LOOKS SO... DIFFERENT.

BRIGHTER... HOPEFUL?

THINGS CHANGED.

BUT OUR GOALS HAVE STAYED THE SAME.

ALLOW US TO INTRODUCE OURSELVES...WE ARE *DR. PHARM* AND *MR. GRAFT.*

IT WAS OUR DOING THAT LED TO YOUR RELEASE. SO THAT YOU WOULD *JOIN US.*

HELP GET OUR *REVENGE...*

"...ON LEX LUTHOR."

GET ME OUT OF HERE NOW!

SUPERMAN NEEDS MY HELP!

STRYKER'S ISLAND PENITENTIARY.

AND SOME *FLESH WOUNDS* WILL NOT STOP ME.

THIS WAS MUCH MORE THAN THAT, LUTHOR.

YOU *BARELY* SURVIVED SURGERY.

IF YOU LEAVE THIS ROOM IN THIS STATE, YOU COULD FURTHER HURT YOURSELF AND DIE OF INTERNAL HEMORRHAGING.

I SAY LET HIM LEAVE.

I WOULD *LOVE* TO WRITE LEX LUTHOR'S OBITUARY.

LANE.

YOU COME TO GLOAT, OR IS THIS A SHOW OF TRUE *CONCERN?*

YOU AND I HAVE KNOWN EACH OTHER FOR A LONG TIME, LEX.

AND *SUPERMAN* HAS A HEART LIKE NO OTHER. HE ALWAYS WANTS THE BEST FOR EVERYONE.

RIGHT NOW, HE SEES SOMETHING IN YOU THAT HE CAN SAVE.

BUT I'M NOT BUYING IT. NOT EVEN A LITTLE BIT.

SO WHY DON'T WE JUST CLEAR THE AIR? OFF THE RECORD.

YOU CAN GO. LEX IS A *GOOD GUY* NOW, RIGHT?

WE'LL BE RIGHT OUTSIDE.

SO WHAT IS IT, LEX?

WHAT'S THE ***REAL PLAN*** HERE? I DON'T HAVE TO SEE THE FUTURE TO KNOW HOW THIS STORY ENDS. YOU'RE GOING TO BETRAY SUPERMAN. IT'S NOT A MATTER OF IF, IT'S JUST ***WHEN.***

ONCE UPON A TIME SOMEONE VERY IMPORTANT TO YOU ***LIED TO YOU.***

FOR ***YEARS.***

THEY KEPT A SECRET, AND THE TRUTH WAS RIGHT UNDER YOUR NOSE. I'M SURE IT BOTHERS ***YOU*** JUST AS MUCH AS IT BOTHERS ***ME.***

BUT YOU WERE ***TOO BLIND*** TO SEE IT BECAUSE YOU DIDN'T ***WANT*** TO SEE IT.

IS TODAY ANY DIFFERENT?

YOU LOOK AT ME AND SEE WHAT YOU ***WANT*** TO SEE. BUT PERHAPS THERE IS ANOTHER SIDE TO ***ME*** AS WELL.

I FOUGHT AGAINST SUPERMAN FOR ***YEARS...***

"FROM THE DAY WE MET, SUPERMAN HAS SHOWN ME COMPASSION.

"BUT WHEN HE SHOWED UP IN METROPOLIS, I REJECTED HIM...BECAUSE *HE* REJECTED *ME*.

"SUPERMAN REVEALED MY WEAKNESS OVER AND OVER AGAIN.

"AND IT WASN'T A CHINK IN ONE OF MY ARMORS, OR A FLAW IN DESIGN, OR A PIECE OF MY PLAN THAT I DIDN'T CALCULATE FOR.

"IT WAS *ME*."

"I'VE TRIED TO BE A *HERO.*

"AND INSTEAD, I MADE *ENEMIES.*

"I THOUGHT TO BE A HERO YOU HAD TO *SACRIFICE.* YOU HAD TO GIVE AWAY A PIECE OF YOURSELF.

"BUT SUPERMAN SHOWED ME I WAS WRONG

"THERE IS A QUESTION I HAVE OFTEN ASKED MYSELF...

"WHEN YOU LOOK INTO THE ABYSS... THE ABYSS LOOKS BACK

"BUT WHAT IF THE ABYSS LOOKED BACK AND SAW SUPERMAN?

"COULD *HE* CHANGE THE *ABYSS.*

...THE WAY HE HAS CHANGED *ME?*

PERHAPS I HAVE OTHER MOTIVES. MAYBE YOU *DO* KNOW ME.

BUT MAYBE MY *OTHER* MOTIVE MEANS SAVING THE WORLD?

NOW IF YOU'LL EXCUSE ME, I AM NEEDED.

SUPERMAN BATTLES ANOTHER OF MY PAST MISDEEDS.

HE'LL WIN. LIKE HE ALWAYS DOES.

I SEEM TO REMEMBER SEEING A PICTURE OF *YOU* CRYING OVER HIS FALLEN BODY ONCE.

THAT IDIOT OLSEN WON AN AWARD FOR IT IF I'M NOT MISTAKEN.

ALL OF THAT SOUNDED LIKE A VILLAIN MONOLOGUE, LEX...

=SIGH...= LET ME HELP *SUPERMAN.*

YOU'RE SO MUCH LIKE YOUR FATHER.

YOU BOTH ALLOWED YOUR *OBSESSIONS* TO *CONSUME* YOU.

LOOK AT MY BOY. SUCH *PROMISE.*

YOU KNOW BY THE TIME HE WAS FOUR YEARS OLD HE COULD PLAY ANY MELODY ON THE PIANO THE MOMENT HE HEARD IT? A FABULOUS EAR.

AND YET HE STRUGGLED TO WRITE HIS *OWN* MUSIC.

I DON'T HAVE THE TIME FOR THIS, *MOTHER.*

MOTHER?

YOU'RE... *LETICIA LUTHOR?*

I THOUGHT YOU DIED.

WHERE'D YOU HEAR THAT, THE *DAILY PLANET?* GROW UP.

LEX'S FATHER WOULD RATHER WASTE HIS LIFE IN SMALLVILLE, BUT I WAS MEANT FOR MORE.

WHY DO YOU THINK LEX CAME TO METROPOLIS IN THE FIRST PLACE?

ENOUGH, MOTHER.

I FURNISHED YOU WITH A PRIVATE ISLAND SO YOU COULD NEVER BE SEEN OR ***HEARD*** FROM AGAIN.

OH, HONEY. IT WAS LOVELY. THE ***GUARDS*** WERE FABULOUS AS WELL.

BUT WHEN YOU DECIDED TO HAND OVER LEXCORP TO THAT ***ALIEN,*** IT TRIGGERED A FEW PRECAUTIONARY MEASURES.

I AM STILL ON THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS, AND I'VE RETURNED TO METROPOLIS TO INVESTIGATE WHETHER YOU HAD THE RIGHT TO MAKE THAT KIND OF TRANSFER OF ***POWER.***

ALSO, I DIDN'T COME ALONE.

SHE'S WAITING FOR YOU OUTSIDE. TYPICAL OVERDRAMATIC TEENAGER.

YOU DIDN'T.

SHE REMINDS ME SO MUCH OF YOU.

I TOLD YOU SHE COULD NEVER COME BACK HERE. IT'S TOO ***DANGEROUS.*** NO ONE CAN KNOW ABOUT HER...

THANKS, DAD.

YOU REALLY KNOW HOW TO MAKE A GIRL FEEL WELCOME.

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THE Black CANARIES

LENA.

WHAT IS HAPPENING?

SURPRISE.

"MY PLAN IS IN MOTION."

IT HAS TAKEN LONGER THAN I HAD HOPED, BUT MY PATIENCE WILL BE REWARDED.

"I HAVE DEMEANED MYSELF BY SETTING FOOT ON EARTH BEFORE IN MY QUEST TO CONTAIN THE LAST SON OF KRYPTON.

HE ESCAPED WHILE OTHERS OF HIS WORLD DID NOT.

ALL KRYPTONIAN KNOWLEDGE SHOULD BELONG TO BRAINIAC...

AND YET...

"...THE SON OF JOR-EL HAS EVADED ME FOR YEARS.

"EVERY TIME WE HAVE FACED OFF, I HAVE LOST.

"HE IS A MISTAKE. A MISCALCULATION GIVEN LIFE.

"THE UNIVERSE HAS FOREVER REVEALED ITSELF TO BE A HARD AND DARK PLACE.

"BUT SUPERMAN SOMEHOW DEFIES THAT CODE.

"AND BECAUSE OF HIS PRESENCE I HAVE BEEN UNABLE TO GET WHAT I WANT.

"KNOWLEDGE IS POWER. IT IS WHY I HOARD MY WORLDS."

AND THERE IS MORE *POWER* ON EARTH THAN ON ANY OTHER WORLD.

WHY?

THAT IS THE KNOWLEDGE THAT HAS ESCAPED ME.

THIS PLANET, THIRD FROM ITS SUN, CREATED BILLIONS OF YEARS AGO, SIMILAR TO THE CREATION OF SO MANY WORLDS, HAS UNLOCKED UNCANNY ABILITIES IN ITS CITIZENS.

MORE AND MORE EACH YEAR.

THIS WORLD.

BRAAL.

"NOT, UNLIKE EARTH, FILLED WITH HUMANITY.

"YET AS EARTH IS FULL OF *VARIED* METAHUMAN POTENTIAL...

"...THIS WORLD HAS *ONE*.

THEY HAVE THE ABILITY TO MANIPULATE METAL WITH THE POWER OF MAGNETISM.

THEN WE WON'T USE ANY METAL WEAPONS...

...WE'LL BEAT THESE BASTICHES TO DEATH WITH OUR BARE HANDS.

MY ARMY WILL YANK THAT METAL RIGHT OUTTA THE SKY AND HAMMER THEIR BRAINS IN WITH IT.

TIBURON AND ***DUENDE*** WILL MAKE SURE YOU NEVER HAVE TO GET YOUR HANDS DIRTY, BOSS.

HEH HEH.

FOR CENTURIES I EMBRACED ***ORDER***, GENERAL CHACAL.

BUT THIS ASSIGNMENT CALLS FOR ***CHAOS.***

IN EXCHANGE FOR YOUR FREEDOM...

...GO. KILL THEM.

KILL THEM ALL.

"IT WON'T BE LONG NOW."

LET'S GET THIS PARTY STARTED!

AND SHOW WHY *CZARNIA* ERASED US FROM THE HISTORY BOOKS!

"I WILL HAVE MORE THAN JUST THE CITIES FULL OF KNOWLEDGE.

FOR CENTURIES I HAVE DESTROYED AND HOARDED.

BUT SOON...

...I WILL HAVE THE POWER TO CREATE *LIFE.*

To be continued in
SUPERMAN #8
and in 2024!

Superman #8 cover
by JAMAL CAMPBELL

Superman #8 variant cover
by LEE BERMEJO

THE PAST.

WHOA.

IT'S CALLED *TACTILE TELEKINESIS.*

IT'S A *FORCE FIELD AURA* AROUND YOUR BODY THAT YOU CAN EXTEND TO CONTROL AND MANIPULATE ANYTHING YOU TOUCH, *SAMMY.*

SAM, PLEASE. ONLY MY DAD CALLS ME SAMMY.

BUT HOLD ON...IF IT'S ANYTHING I COME INTO CONTACT WITH...WHAT ABOUT THE MOLECULES IN THE AIR? WOULDN'T THAT MAKE ME CONNECTED TO *EVERYTHING?* LIKE, WITH PRACTICE COULD I EXPAND THE FIELD OUT *FURTHER* AND *FURTHER* AND MANIPULATE *REALITY?*

I WOULDN'T HAVE TO TOUCH ANYTHING AT *ALL.*

CHOOCHOO

CLASSIC TRAIN

WELL...I DON'T THINK THAT WOULD BE--

LOOK...

...NO HANDS...

"REMARKABLE."

THIS IS GROUNDBREAKING WORK, LEX.

I CAME TO YOU LOOKING FOR A WAY TO HAVE BETTER ***SECURITY GUARDS*** AND YOU TURNED MY GOOD-FOR-NOTHING SON INTO A ***METAHUMAN. BRAVO.***

MR. STRYKER IS RIGHT. THE POSSIBILITIES ARE ENDLESS.

CARL, THIS GOES BEYOND ANYTHING WE WERE THINKING FOR MY PENITENTIARY.

I'LL SHARE THIS WITH ***CADMUS,*** TOO. THEY'RE GOING TO LOVE IT.

LEX, YOU HAVE CREATED SOMETHING SPECIAL HERE...

...IMAGINE WHAT SAMMY COULD DO WITH THAT KIND OF POWER.

TODAY.

WHY WOULD I WANT TO WORK WITH *YOU?*

I'VE NEVER HEARD OF ANY *DR. PHARM* AND *MR. GRAFT...*

AND THAT IS BECAUSE OF THE ACTIONS OF OUR COMMON ENEMY.

LEX LUTHOR.

YOU WERE LOCKED UP FOR YEARS, SAM...AND IN THAT TIME, LEX FINALLY SHOWED HIS TRUE COLORS. REVEALED HIMSELF TO THE WORLD AS THE *VILLAIN* WE ALWAYS KNEW HE WAS.

MY BROTHER AND I ARE PUTTING TOGETHER A KIND OF...*PARTNERSHIP* WITH LIKE-MINDED INDIVIDUALS SUCH AS YOURSELF. WITH AN EYE TOWARD *REVENGE.*

I DON'T NEED PARTNERS.

METROPOLIS CAN LOVE OR HATE LEX LUTHOR, BUT I KNOW EXACTLY WHO AND WHAT HE IS.

DO YOU?

I THINK IT'S TIME...

BEEP

...FOR A HISTORY LESSON.

VOTE LEX

WHAT DO YOU MEAN *THE CHAINED* HAS *YOUR* POWERS, CONNER?

WHEN I WAS FIGHTING HIM, I FELT A *CONNECTION.* HE FELT IT, TOO.

HE HAS *TACTILE TELEKINESIS* LIKE ME, BUT... *STRONGER.*

HOW IS THAT POSSIBLE, SUPERMAN?

I'M AFRAID I KNOW THE ANSWER...

METROPOLIS. IN THE WRECKAGE.

KARA, HELP NATASHA AND KENAN WITH THE RECOVERY EFFORTS.

CONNER, YOU'RE WITH ME...

"WE NEED TO PAY *STRYKER'S* A VISIT."

LUTHOR, CAN YOU HEAR ME?

LUTHOR?

SUPERMAN, I'M HERE.

WHOOOOSSH

I SHOULD HAVE KNOWN YOU'D LEAVE ME TO DIE.*

THAT IS *NOT* WHAT HAPPENED, LUTHOR.

FINE, I CALLED YOU FOR HELP WHEN I WAS BEING STABBED AND YOU DIDN'T SHOW UP.

YOU'RE RIGHT...I SHOULD HAVE BEEN THERE. I'M...

I'M SORRY.

SORRY FOR *WHAT?* IT'S NOT LIKE LEX DIDN'T HAVE IT--

ALL OF THAT IS WATER UNDER THE BRIDGE NOW, SUPERBOY.

THE *OLD ME* WOULD HAVE FELT BETRAYED AND BEGUN PLOTTING AN IN-DEPTH PLAN OF REVENGE THAT WOULD INVOLVE STABBING *SUPERMAN* IN THE BACK AND KILLING EVERY SINGLE PERSON YOU'VE EVER KNOWN.

*DON'T TELL ME YOU MISSED *SUPERMAN* #5? --PK

BUT YOU'RE DEALING WITH THE *NEW* ME *NOW*, REMEMBER?

HOW CAN I BE OF ASSISTANCE?

TELL ME WHO THE CHAINED REALLY IS.

HIS NAME IS ***SAMMY STRYKER.*** HIS FATHER CREATED THE VERY PENITENTIARY WE STAND WITHIN NOW.

AS YOU'VE ASCERTAINED... HE'S INSANELY POWERFUL.

YOU HAVE ONLY ONE OPTION.

AND YOU KNOW WHAT THAT IS.

THERE IS ALWAYS ANOTHER WAY. I'LL FIND...

...WHAT...? ***LENA?*** IS THAT YOU?

KEEP YOUR DISTANCE, ALIEN. MY GRANDDAUGHTER WANTS NOTHING TO DO WITH ***YOU.***

GRANDMA, STOP! SUPERMAN ***SAVED*** ME!

LOIS, CAN I GET A DOWNLOAD, PLEASE?

THIS IS ALL A SURPRISE TO ME, TOO. I CAME HERE TO TALK TO LEX, AND NEXT THING I KNOW IT'S A LUTHOR FAMILY REUNION.

WE NEED TO--

BOOM!

I SHOULD HAVE KNOWN YOU'D END UP IN MY FATHER'S PRISON.

RIGHT WHERE YOU BELONG.

WH-WHAT'S LIFTING ME UP?!

INTERESTING...

...SHE HAS YOUR EYES, LEX.

YOU *WERE* BUSY WHILE I WAS AWAY.

I... I CAN'T MOVE...

THE BLACK CANARIES

FREEZE.

MEN WITH GUNS PROTECTING YOU, LEX.

NOT MUCH HAS CHANGED.

CONNER...?

SUPERMAN... HIS CHAINS ARE TOO MUCH...

EXCEPT YOU WENT BALD.

CRACK-CRAK

NGH!

SKK-SKK-SKK

THAT'S ENOUGH.

CONNER, LISTEN CLOSE...

YOUR FATHER IS A VERY BAD MAN.

I KNOW...

THEN YOU UNDERSTAND THAT AFTER WHAT HE DID TO ME, AND WHAT HE HAS DONE TO SO MANY OTHERS... HE MUST BE *PUNISHED.*

STOP, SAMMY.

IT'S ME YOU WANT. JUST TAKE *ME* AND LEAVE *HER* ALONE.

YOU STOLE SO MUCH FROM ME, LEX. THIS IS ABOUT MORE THAN JUST YOU NOW...

LEAVE MY DAUGHTER OUT OF THIS... *PLEASE...*

I LOVE TO HEAR YOU BEG.

DO YOU REMEMBER WHEN I BEGGED YOU TO HELP *ME?*

CONNER, NOW!

BOOM!

WHOOSH!

LENA!

LENA, I--

THE BLACK CANARIES

GET AWAY FROM ME.

THE BLACK CANARIE

WHAT IS YOUR PLAN, SUPERMAN?

TO GET SOME DISTANCE!

SSTTTOPPPPP...

AS YOU WISH, BUDDY!

CRASH!

SUPERMAN, THERE ARE THINGS YOU NEED TO KNOW.

I DIDN'T LOCK HIM UP BECAUSE OF THE POWERS.

I DID IT BECAUSE SAMMY KILLED HIS FATHER.

HE **KILLED** SEBASTIAN STRYKER.

THEN YOU SHOULD HAVE HAD HIM ARRESTED! NOT KEPT HIM IN SOME DUNGEON TO *ROT!*

PERHAPS I MADE A MISTAKE TO LOCK HIM UP THE WAY I DID, BUT I HAD *NO CHOICE.* YOU SAW WHAT HE DID TO THE GUARDS...

...HE'S A MONSTER.

BOOOM!

BUT THERE'S MORE...

YOUR CLONED COMPANION, **SUPERBOY.** HE'S A BIT OF ME, AND A BIT OF YOU. BUT HIS POWERS CAME FROM **SAMMY.** CADMUS USED MY RESEARCH INTO TELEKINESIS TO REPLICATE YOUR POWERS AS BEST AS THEY COULD.

BUT SUPERBOY'S POWERS ARE JUST A FRACTION OF WHAT SAMMY HAS. THINK ABOUT ALL THE THINGS SUPERBOY COULD DO WITH HIS POWERS IF HE WAS FULL OF **RAGE.**

HOW DID YOU STOP HIM BEFORE?

SHAAZAK

IT WAS... DANGEROUS.

WE DON'T HAVE TIME FOR **GAMES!** HOW DID YOU DO IT?

I BUILT IN A WEAKNESS. CERTAIN ELEMENTS GET PAST HIS FORCE FIELD. FIRE, ICE...BUT I NEEDED SOMETHING **STRONGER.**

AN ELEMENT I FOUND IN SMALLVILLE WHEN I WAS YOUNG THAT I THOUGHT WAS UNIQUE...

LUTHOR, YOU **DIDN'T...**

BOOM

MAYBE PICK ON SOMEONE WITH THE SAME *POWERS.*

PLEASE...YOU ARE NOTHING.

PUT ASIDE YOUR DISAPPOINTMENT AND FOR ONCE JUST *LISTEN TO ME,* SUPERMAN.

YOU WILL NEED *MERCY'S* HELP.

FLY TO *SUPERCORP* AS FAST AS YOU CAN AND--

THUK

YOU CREATED ME.

UK...

SUPERMAN...

YOUR TIME IS DONE, LEX.

THEN REJECTED ME.

JUST LIKE MY FATHER.

SO YOU WILL *DIE* LIKE HIM.

...SAVE ME...

I HEARD YOU THIS TIME, LUTHOR.

THWAM!

HOPE YOU KNOW YOU'RE NOT WORTH ALL THIS, LEX.

TAKE ME TO MERCY. IF SUPERMAN HAS THE KRYPTONITE GAUNTLETS, THEN SHE WILL NEED YOU FOR THE NEXT STEP...

YOU DEFEND LEX?!

THEY SHOWED ME *ALL* HE HAS *DONE* TO THE WORLD!

KRYPTONITE... OH NO...

...HE'S MORE OF A *MONSTER* THAN I *EVER* IMAGINED.

BOOM!

AND THEY SHOWED ME *YOU.* YOU *ARE* A HERO?

AND YET YOU RISK YOUR LIFE FOR HIM?

BOOM! BOOM! BOOM! BOOM!

I RISK MY LIFE FOR EVERYONE!

KRAKK-BOOMM!

BUT I WON'T MAKE THE MISTAKE THAT...

...LUTHOR DID.

I'M NOT YOUR JUDGE, JURY, AND...

...RRGH...

...EXECUTIONER.

THE KRYPTONITE...

SAM, WE'RE BOTH EXPOSED...LET ME HELP...OTHERWISE WE COULD DIE HERE...

I'M NOT ALONE IN *HATING* LEX, SUPERMAN.

PHARM AND GRAFT REVEALED THAT. THEY SHOWED ME WHAT HE DID TO *PARASITE*, TO *METALLO*, TO *BIZARRO*, TO *MARILYN MOONLIGHT*.

HOW HE CREATES MONSTERS LIKE ME.

AAHHHHH!

KRAK!

JUST QUIT AND LET ME KILL HIM. THEN THIS CAN ALL *END*, SUPERMAN.

NO...

KRAK! KRAK! KRAK!

YOU CAN'T BEAT ME.

I DON'T NEED TO...

HE WAS JUST BUYING TIME FOR *ME.*

NOW!

NO!

KLICK

KLICK

KLICK

KLUNNK-CHUNK

SEE WHAT YOUR FATHER IS REALLY ABOUT, LENA?

I'VE ALWAYS KNOWN, GRANDMA.

MOM!

THANK YOU, PERRY!

TRSH!

IT'S OKAY, IT'S OVER...

WHERE IS HE?

LOIS... IT'S...

NO...

LANE, THE KRYPTONITE WAS THE ONLY WAY TO SLOW THE CHAINED DOWN. YOU CAN'T--

MOVE IT OR LOSE IT, LEX!

I DID IT...

...I SAVED LEX...

ONLY ONE THING CAN SAVE SUPERMAN NOW... SUPER-ARMOR?!

Superman #9 cover
by JAMAL CAMPBELL

Superman #9 variant cover
by LEE BERMEJO

THIS ONE IS FROM JAMIE.

"YOU MIGHT NOT REMEMBER ME, BUT A FEW YEARS AGO MY DOG BUCKY RAN AWAY. WE SEARCHED EVERYWHERE BUT WE COULDN'T FIND HIM.

"THEN YOU FOUND HIM AND BROUGHT HIM HOME.

"THEN A WEEK LATER MY LITTLE BROTHER WAS SHOT WHEN THESE GUYS TRIED TO ROB A BANK.

"THE AMBULANCE WAS STUCK IN TRAFFIC AND WASN'T GOING TO MAKE IT, BUT YOU FLEW THE AMBULANCE AND MY BROTHER TO THE HOSPITAL.

"NEXT WEEK IS HIS TENTH BIRTHDAY, AND I KNOW HE'D LOVE TO SEE YOU AGAIN, EVEN IF IT'S JUST FLYING OVER METROPOLIS.

"WE MISS YOU..."

"GET WELL SOON, SUPERMAN."

DAILY PLANET

to SUPERMAN

to SUPERMAN

TO SUPERMAN

TO SUPERMAN

LOIS LANE, MEET CLARK KENT.

I DO.

WE'LL CALL HIM JON...AFTER YOUR DAD.

OKAY, GET IT TOGETHER, LOIS...

THIS ONE IS FROM SEAN...

OUR **MAN OF STEEL** HAS SHOWN US HOW FAR HE IS WILLING TO GO TO PROTECT US AND THE CITY HE CALLS HOME.

AND WE NEED TO REPAY HIM.

METROPOLIS IS NOT A CITY OF **SECRETS**... BUT A CITY OF **PEOPLE.**

SURVIVORS WHO WANT A BETTER TOMORROW FOR THEMSELVES AND THEIR FAMILIES.

TODAY I'M OFFICIALLY PUTTING MY CAMPAIGN FOR MAYOR ON HOLD.

IT'S THE RIGHT THING TO DO WHILE OUR CITY AND SUPERMAN HEAL.

SUPERMAN HAS INSPIRED US TO HELP EACH OTHER IN HIS ABSENCE. TO BE GOOD TO EACH OTHER...

"...AND NOT LET THE BAD GUYS WIN."

I REMEMBER THE DAY YOU WERE BORN LIKE IT WAS YESTERDAY.

YOU WERE MY HOPE FOR A BETTER WORLD, BUT WITH EACH PASSING DAY I COULD SEE YOU WERE JUST LIKE YOUR FATHER.

STRYKER'S ISLAND PENITENTIARY.

SO SMART...BUT ***BLIND*** TO THE TRAGEDY YOU CREATE IN YOUR WAKE.

AND HERE WE ARE. ANOTHER ONE OF YOUR CREATIONS NEARLY DESTROYS THE DAMN CITY. ***AGAIN.***

WHERE IS SHE, MOTHER?

LENA CAN'T ***BE*** IN METROPOLIS. YOU ***KNOW*** WHY.

TRY TELLING HER THAT.

YOUR REBELLIOUS DAUGHTER DECIDED SHE WANTS TO STAY IN METROPOLIS, AND CONSIDERING YOUR CURRENT ***SITUATION*** I DOUBT THERE IS ANYTHING ***YOU*** CAN DO ABOUT IT.

I CAN'T IMAGINE HER WANTING TO ATTEND HIGH SCHOOL.

PLEASE, SHE GRADUATED FROM HIGH SCHOOL ***YEARS AGO.*** SEEMS SHE'S INHERITED YOUR ***INTELLECT.*** LET'S HOPE SHE DODGED ALL THAT ***FAILURE*** OF YOURS.

SHE EVEN GOT HERSELF A JOB.

WHERE?

SUPERCORP.

WHOA.

SO THIS WILL KEEP HIM CONTAINED?

FOR NOW.

WE'VE USED THE TECHNOLOGY PIONEERED BY YOUR FATHER TO KEEP SAM STRYKER, AHEM...***THE CHAINED,*** FROM ESCAPING. BUT IT'S JUST A TEMPORARY SOLUTION UNTIL WE CAN GET THE PROPER CELL BUILT AT STRYKER'S.

NOW COME ALONG. THERE IS A ***LOT*** FOR YOU TO SEE HERE AT SUPERCORP.

BUT I HAVE MORE QUESTIONS...

PERHAPS I CAN BE OF ASSISTANCE.

WHAT ARE ***YOU*** SUPPOSED TO BE?

I AM ***LL-01.*** A PROGRAM DESIGNED BY YOUR FATHER TO ASSIST SUPERMAN.

I CAN ALSO ANSWER ANY QUESTIONS YOU MIGHT HAVE, ***LENA.***

OH REALLY...?

VACATION, MS. LANE?

ARE YOU SURE ***NOW*** IS THE RIGHT TIME...?

CLARK AND I JUST NEEDED A FEW DAYS IN THE SUN. BEACHES AND SAND, Y'KNOW?

WELL, THE STAFF IS SORT OF ***FREAKING OUT,*** AND PRODUCTION NEEDS YOUR SIGN-OFF FOR WHAT GOES ON THE FRONT PAGE TOMORROW MORNING.

AND Y'KNOW... IF YOU'RE GONE, NOBODY KNOWS ***WHO*** IS IN CHARGE.

YOU'RE IN CHARGE, JIMMY.

YOU DECIDE WHAT GOES ON THE FRONT PAGE.

I GOTTA GO. SURF'S UP!

...ME...IN CHARGE...?

..."SURF'S UP"...?

YOU'RE A WORSE LIAR THAN ME.

REMIND ME TO WRITE JAMIE BACK AND TELL HIM I REMEMBER HIM AND HIS BROTHER.

I NEED TO WRITE HIM A BIRTHDAY CARD...

DID I JUST PUT JIMMY OLSEN IN CHARGE OF THE *DAILY PLANET*?

I THINK YOU DID.

WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?

WE'VE ALL BEEN TAKING TURNS KEEPING AN EYE ON YOU. WE DON'T TRUST SUPERCORP...

AND I GUESS THAT'S MY CUE.

BUT I ASSURE YOU, SUPERMAN HAS BEEN UNDER OUR VERY BEST CARE.

YOU TWO SHOULD BE CAREFUL, LOIS.

I LET YOU IN HERE AS AN OLD FAVOR, BUT WE CAN'T LET OTHERS CONNECT THE DOTS.

THAT WOULD BE... ***TRAGIC.***

I WAS JUST INTERVIEWING SUPERMAN FOR THE *DAILY PLANET*, MERCY.

NOTHING--

OH, PLEASE.

YOU THINK LEX DIDN'T FACTOR ***ME*** INTO HIS WHOLE "CLARK KENT SECRET-IDENTITY MIND BOMB"?*

*AS IF YOU COULD FORGET *ACTION COMICS* #1050 --PK

I REALLY APPRECIATE YOUR HELP HERE, MERCY. BUT IT'S TIME I GOT BACK OUT THERE AND FOUND ***PHARM*** AND ***GRAFT.***

THEY NEED TO BE STOPPED BEFORE THEY POISON SOMEONE ELSE.

I'M SORRY, WHAT?

NOT ONLY DID THE CHAINED DO A NUMBER ON YOU, BUT YOU ALSO HAVE ***INTENSE*** KRYPTONITE POISONING. YOU ***CANNOT*** BE EXPOSED TO KRYPTONITE LIKE THAT AGAIN.

YOU NEED TO ***HEAL.*** ***A LOT.***

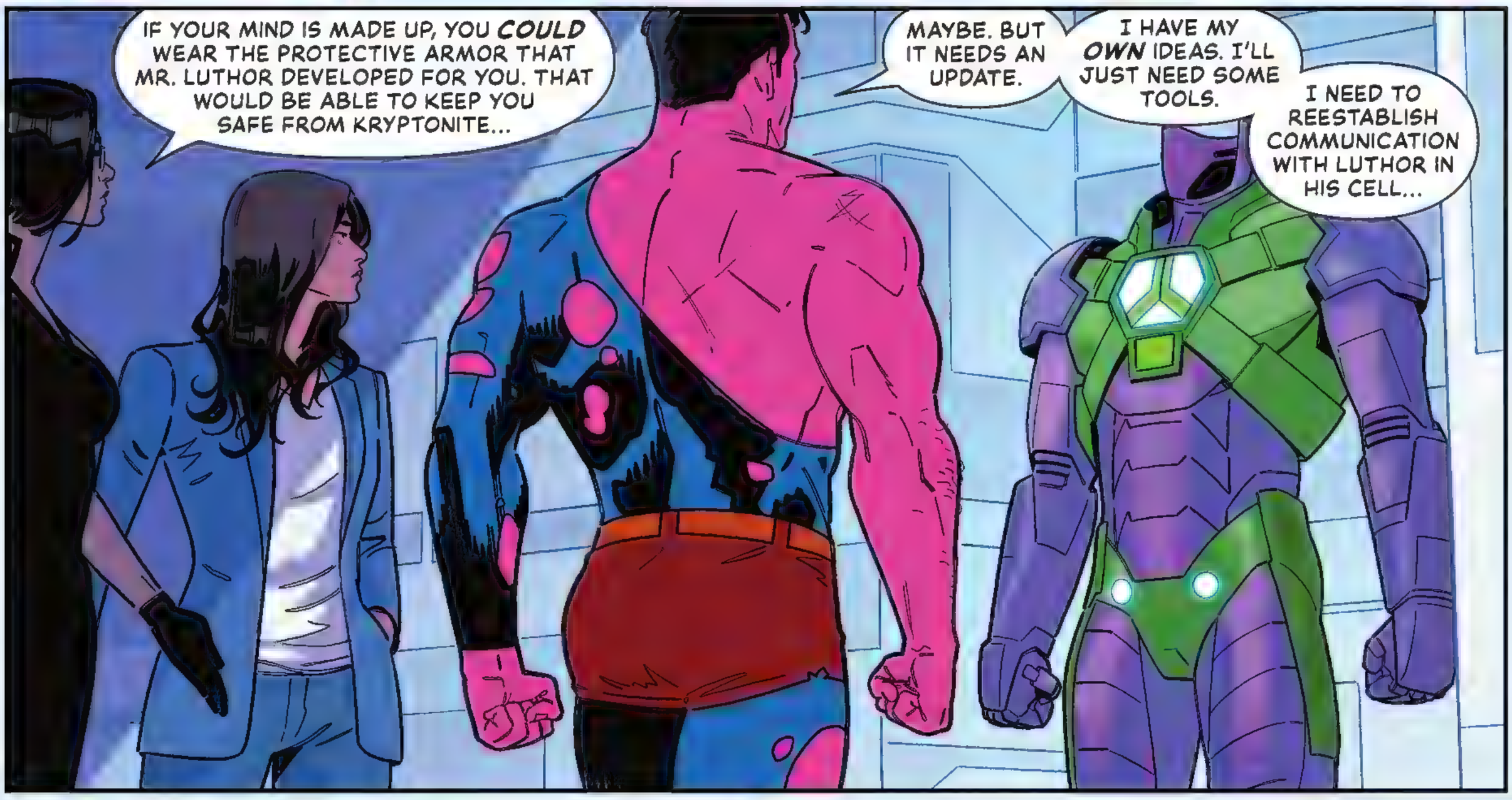
I HATE TO SAY THIS, BUT I AGREE WITH MERCY. LET SOMEONE ELSE HANDLE THE INVESTIGATION WHILE YOU REST.

I UNDERSTAND YOUR WORRIES, I DO. BUT WE DON'T HAVE THAT KIND OF TIME.

WHEN I WAS FIGHTING ***THE CHAINED,*** HE TALKED ABOUT ***OTHER*** PEOPLE WHO HAVE BEEN WRONGED BY LUTHOR...

I KNOW WHO PHARM AND GRAFT'S NEXT TARGET IS...

"MARILYN MOONLIGHT."


IF YOUR MIND IS MADE UP, YOU COULD WEAR THE PROTECTIVE ARMOR THAT MR. LUTHOR DEVELOPED FOR YOU. THAT WOULD BE ABLE TO KEEP YOU SAFE FROM KRYPTONITE...
MAYBE. BUT IT NEEDS AN UPDATE.
I HAVE MY OWN IDEAS. I'LL JUST NEED SOME TOOLS.
I NEED TO REESTABLISH COMMUNICATION WITH LUTHOR IN HIS CELL...

HOW ARE YOU GOING TO FIND MOONLIGHT?
DIDN'T YOU SAY CAT HAS BEEN INTERVIEWING MOONLIGHT FOR A COVER FEATURE...?

BEAUTIFUL, ISN'T IT?

A LOVELY VIEW OF THE WRECKAGE AND LIVES RUINED BELOW.

I KNEW IT WOULD DRAW YOU HERE.

I GO WHERE I'M NEEDED.

AND I'M NOT PLAYING ANY OF YOUR GAMES WITH LEX, GRAFT.

MARILYN. YOU HAVE NOTHING TO WORRY ABOUT.

YOU'RE NOT LIKE PARASITE, OR SILVER BANSHEE. YOU'RE ONE OF US.

IF YOU WORK WITH ME, YOU CAN FINALLY GET *REVENGE* ON *LEX* AND THE CITY THAT TURNED YOU INTO THIS...GHOSTLY CURSE.

YOUR HISTORY WITH METROPOLIS IS AS LONG AS MINE...

I REMEMBER YOU AND YOUR FORKED TONGUE.

NOTHING BUT A SNAKE OIL SALESMAN.

JUST LIKE YOUR MAMA.

YOU DARE SPEAK OF MY MOTHER IN THAT WAY?

YOU ARE NOTHING BUT AN UNGRATEFUL--

Ronin

DID YOU REALLY RECONNECT US JUST SO I COULD HEAR YOU SHOW OFF?

TAKE GRAFT OUT *NOW.*

LOVE THE NEW LOOK, SUPERMAN.

I ESPECIALLY LIKE THAT YOU HAVE FURTHER EMBRACED LEX LUTHOR'S WAYS.

IT ONLY TOOK A FEW MONTHS, BUT YOU ARE WEARING HIS UNIFORM. LEX MUST BE IMPRESSED.

I'M NOT.

WHATEVER ISSUE YOU HAVE WITH LUTHOR, YOU CAN TAKE UP WITH ME.

YOU HAVE MESSED WITH TOO MANY LIVES, AND IT STOPS *NOW.* LEAVE MOONLIGHT *ALONE.*

I DON'T RECALL ASKING FOR YOUR HELP, SUPERMAN.

AND I CAN HANDLE GRAFT ALL BY MY LONE-SOME.

CAN YOU?

DO YOU REALLY THINK I WOULD ALLOW MYSELF TO BE OUT IN THE OPEN LIKE THIS IF I DIDN'T COME FULLY PREPARED FOR FISTICUFFS?

CLICK

CLICK

IT'S BEEN QUITE SOME TIME...

CLICK

CLICK

CLICK

...SINCE I STEPPED INTO THE ARENA...

CLICK

CLICK

CLICK

...OF BATTLE!

CLICK

CLICK

ACTIVATE THE E.M.P. BUILT INTO THE SUIT. IT WILL SHOCK GRAFT WHILE SHUTTING HIM DOWN.

I REMOVED THAT.

THIS SUIT SHOULD *PROTECT ME.* NOT *HURT OTHERS.*

I BUILT YOU A TANK AND YOU TURNED IT INTO AN AMBULANCE. *SHAMEFUL.*

YOU AND I ARE DUE FOR A VERY LONG CONVERSATION.

WE'LL CATCH UP LATER.

SUPERMAN! NOW!

TSH

TSH

TSH

AH!

BLAM

BLAM

ZZART

ARE YOU SURE THIS IS WISE, SUPERMAN? THE TINIEST CRACK IN YOUR ARMOR COULD LET IN MY KRYPTONITE.

I NEVER THOUGHT I'D BE A CITY BOY, GRAFT.

BUT I'VE BEEN LUCKY TO CALL METROPOLIS *HOME.*

IT'S A PLACE OF HARD-WORKING PEOPLE WHO JUST WANT WHAT'S BEST FOR THEIR LIVES.

AND YOU TRIED TO TAKE THAT FROM THEM.

SO EVEN IF THIS ARMOR DID CRACK...

...I'D EAT ***KRYPTONITE*** IF IT MEANT STOPPING ***YOU.***

YOU MISUNDERSTAND, SUPERMAN.

I DON'T NEED TO HIT ***YOU*** WITH MY KRYPTONITE KLAW.

I ONLY NEED ***HER.***

ZZZAP!

FASCINATING.

YOU MUST LOVE LIFE'S LITTLE SURPRISES.

NOW WE CAN MOVE TO *PHASE TWO.* BROTHER WILL BE SO PLEASED.

SUPERMAN? WHAT HAPPENED?

SUPERMAN?!

HE'S GONE, BOSS.

NO TRACE OF SUPERMAN...

"...ANYWHERE..."

WWWEEETWEEE

GGACHUGGACHUGGACHUGGACHUGGACHUGGACHUGGACHU

METROPOLIS EXPRESS CO.

THANK YOU FOR JOINING US FOR OUR TRIP TODAY.

RECENTLY, MY FAMILY HAS HAD QUITE A FEW TROUBLES IN OUR TRAVELS.

HEINOUS BANDITS STEAL FROM US AT EVERY TURN. WE NEED PROTECTION.

YOU SEE...

...MY DARLING BOYS ARE YOUNG INVENTORS.

VISIONARIES!

AND WHAT THEY HAVE BUILT HERE IS PRECIOUS CARGO.

IT WILL TURN *METROPOLIS* INTO THE *CITY OF TOMORROW.*

THAT'S CATCHY.

TAP TAP

TNG TNG

YOU SHOULD COIN THAT.

BUT DON'T YOU WORRY NONE, MA'AM.

WE HAVE PLENTY OF EXPERIENCE WITH THIS SORT OF THING.

YOU MADE THE RIGHT CHOICE CALLING...

...NIGHTHAWK AND Cinnamon.

I TRULY HOPE SO.

HE'S HERE.

SHOOT, WE JUST LEFT THE STATION!

LOOK AT HIM GO. HE'S AS FAST AS THE TRAIN!

EVERYONE STAY CALM! DON'T LET YOUR BUTTS LEAVE YOUR SEATS!

BUT MAYBE CONSIDER KEEPING YOUR HEADS DOWN AND CLUTCHING YOUR VALUABLES.

WHERE IS THIS GUY *HEADED?*

REACH FOR THE SKY!

HEY, WAIT A SECOND. WHAT KIND OF BANDIT DOESN'T CARRY GUNS?

DANG! *THAT SMARTS.*

SORRY TO DO THAT, PARDNERS.

BLAM BLAM

I DON'T LIKE SIDEARMS.

NOW IF YOU'LL KINDLY EXCUSE ME...

...I'M ROBBING THIS HERE TRAIN.

CONTINUED NEXT ISSUE IN...

THE MAN OF YESTERDAY!

Superman #10 cover
by JAMAL CAMPBELL

Superman #10 variant cover
by LEE BERMEJO

METROPOLIS.
SUPERCORP.

WHAT DO YOU MEAN YOU LOST HIM?

WE'LL GET SUPERMAN BACK, LOIS.

MR. LUTHOR HAS A THEORY.

OF COURSE HE DOES...

I HEARD THAT, LANE...

MARILYN MOONLIGHT'S POWERS OPERATE ON A SPECTRAL LEVEL. WE SHOULD START THERE.

I'VE RUN OUR INITIAL TESTS BY THE SUPERNATURAL FORENSICS DEPARTMENT'S TOP MINDS AND--

ACTUALLY, FATHER, THAT WAS A WASTE OF TIME.

JUDGING BY *YOUR* ENEMIES' RECENT ACTIONS TOWARD PARASITE AND SILVER BANSHEE, PHARM AND GRAFT ARE USING KRYPTONITE TO CREATE DIFFERENT REACTIONS IN THEIR VICTIMS. WE NEED TO--

WHOOO WHOOO WHOOO

WHAT *NOW?*

THAT'S ODD. SOMETHING TRIGGERED THE ALARMS ON THE LOWER LEVELS...

OH NO... WHEREVER *SUPERMAN* IS NOW...

...WE NEED HIM TO *STAY THERE.*

Dear Lois,

It's been four days. I miss you. I miss the kids.

Back in Smallville I used to sit on the couch next to my father every Sunday and watch a Western. The classics, of course.

My father used to say he wished he could go back in time and see it for himself...

...I don't think this is what he had in mind.

Marilyn doesn't talk much. When she does, it sounds like a whisper on the wind.

Normally, she's a ghost who only comes out at night, but whatever Graft did to her that launched us into the past has bought her some time in the sun as well...

LOOKS LIKE A ROBBERY GONE WRONG.

MOSTLY WOMEN AND CHILDREN. TWO MEN.

I COUNT JUST ONE RIFLE IN THE WHOLE CAMP... THEY DIDN'T STAND A CHANCE.

I'm still healing from the Kryptonite poisoning, so I don't have full access to my powers...*

*AS SEEN IN *SUPERMAN* #8 AND #9 --PK

I've had to hide my armor. I can't let anyone see it. It might scare a few folks and mess with the future. I can't take that risk.

SUPERMAN, LOOK.

THESE WERE NOT MADE BY ANY BULLETS I KNOW OF.

LASERS.

WHOEVER DID THIS MIGHT HAVE THE RIGHT KIND OF TECH TO GET US HOME.

I HAVE SOME IDEAS... WE'LL FIND THE LOWLIFE THAT DID THIS.

BUT FIRST...

...WE MAKE SURE THESE FOLKS GET PEACE.

No matter how long it takes, I will get home to you, Lois...

"THEY DIDN'T STAND A CHANCE!"

HAHAHA. THERE WAS TWELVE MEN WITH THAT WAGON PARTY. ALL ARMED TO THE TEETH. I DIDN'T MISS A ONE.

IT'S WILD TO THINK THOSE BOYS MIGHT HAVE SPENT A LIFETIME TRYING TO SAVE UP THAT COIN AND IN A BLINK OF AN EYE IT'S ALL MINE.

WOULD YA QUIT YER YAPPIN' AND JUST PLAY?

I DON'T NEED TO BE HEARING ABOUT YOU KILLING ANYBODY.

HM.

WELL, SHOOT. JUST PICKED THESE BOOTS UP IN GOTHAM.

BUDDY, THAT IS SOME NASTY HORSE--

BIBBO'S SALOON

KRTSH

GUESS I WON THAT HAND.

HA!

YOU!

GIRL!

GET ME ANOTHER ROUND! OR YOU'RE NEXT!

EXCUSE ME! EXCUSE ME!

I PAID FOR YOU TO COME TO THIS TOWN AND HELP ME WITH MY PROBLEM, NOT MAKE ***MORE PROBLEMS.***

A VILLAINOUS MAN STOLE A NEW CREATION FROM US...

...AND MY PRECIOUS BOYS WANT IT ***BACK.*** THE LAST GUNS I HIRED JUST LET HIM--

WANTED

DEAD OR ALIVE

$500 REWARD

DON'T WORRY, YA OLD CRONE.

THERE IS ***NO PLACE*** IN THE COUNTRY WHERE YER ***BANDIT*** CAN HIDE FROM ***ME.***

SOON AS I FIND HIM, HE'S AS GOOD AS--

DON'T BOTHER...

YOU'RE DONE TERRORIZING THIS TOWN, TERRA-MAN.

THAT'S HIM!

THAT'S THE MAN THAT STOLE FROM MY BOYS!

GET 'IM!

HOLD YOUR HORSES...

YOU LOOK FAMILIAR, PARDNER.

WHERE DO I...?

BOY HOWDY.

I AIN'T SEEN YOU IN A HOG'S LIFE, BROTHER.

YOU KNOW HIM?!

OH SURE, ME AND SUPERMAN GO WAY BACK...

SLAP

"...WE HAD OUR FAIR SHARE OF RUN-INS IN A FAR-OFF LAND.

I THOUGHT COMING BACK HERE I COULD JUST ENJOY MYSELF FOR A BIT WITHOUT ANYONE FINDING OUT.

YOU KILLED PEOPLE.

I'VE KILLED A ***LOT*** OF PEOPLE. YOU'RE GONNA HAVE TO GET SPECIFIC.

I'M TAKING YOU IN.

I BEG TO DIFFER.

SEE, YOU'RE POWERLESS, AIN'T YA? I CAN TELL. THE SUPERMAN I KNEW WOULD HAVE FLOWN IN HERE LIKE A BULLET AND TAKEN ME OUT. BUT NOT YOU. YOU ***WALKED IN.***

I'D WAGER THAT YOU'RE TRAPPED HERE.

YOU AIN'T HERE TO BRING ME IN--YOU SEE ME AND MY ***TIME MACHINE*** AS YOUR TICKET HOME. YOU ***NEED ME.***

IT REALLY SOUNDS MORE LIKE YOU'VE JUST BEEN ***HIDING*** HERE LIKE A ***NO-GOOD CHICKEN,*** TERRA-MAN.

THIS TIME ISN'T BIG ENOUGH FOR THE BOTH OF US!

LET'S HANDLE THIS...

"...THE OLD-FASHIONED WAY."

WHERE'S YOUR PIECE?

DON'T NEED ONE.

HEH. YOU ALWAYS WERE A COCKY S.O.B.

FINE BY ME. I HAVE NO PROBLEM SHOOTING YOU DOWN...

...IN FRONT OF THESE FINE PEOPLE. JUST ANOTHER LESSON LEARNED.

GET 'IM.

WE GO AT THE COUNT OF THREE.

ONE...

BANG

BANG

BANG

HA! THREE!

HUNH.

I GUESS ALL THIS SUN DID ME SOME GOOD.

YOU GOTTA BE KIDDING ME!

YOU CHEAT!

OH, I *MISSED* THIS...

YOU MIGHT HAVE POWERS, BUT THESE *TOWNSFOLK* SURE DON'T!

BANG BANG BANG

AHHH!

WHAT...?

SWIFT

YOU FORGET THAT MY PISTOLS HAVE *TRACER BULLETS,* TOO?

YOU MIGHT STOP ALL OF THEM, BUT I'LL BE ON MY WAY.

YOU CAN STAY TRAPPED IN THE WILD WEST, BROTHER.

I'LL JUST JUMP BACK IN TIME ANOTHER TEN YEARS AND SPEND THAT TIME KILLING AS MANY PEOPLE AS I CAN BEFORE WE MEET AGAIN.

SEE YA!

HEY, WHAT THE HELL? WORK, YA DANG THING!

YOU AIN'T GOING ANYWHERE!

WOW.

WHILE YOU AND I HAD OUR LITTLE STARE-DOWN...

...MY ASSOCIATE FOUND YOUR ***STEED*** AND ***TIME-TRAVEL EQUIPMENT,*** TERRA-MAN.

DIDN'T THINK YOU'D MIND IF WE BORROWED IT.

YOU CAN'T LEAVE ME HERE!

"YOU REALLY JUST KEEPING HIM IN THE PAST?"

I'LL LET HIM SWEAT IT OUT A BIT. WITHOUT HIS TIME-TRAVEL TECH AND GUNS, HE'S HARMLESS. BUT I HAVE SOME FRIENDS THAT CAN COME BACK AND GRAB HIM. RETURN HIM TO WHERE HE BELONGS.

HE NEEDS TO ANSWER FOR HIS CRIMES ***HERE*** FIRST. LET THE PEOPLE KNOW HE DIDN'T JUST GET AWAY WITH IT.

FAIR ENOUGH.

AT LEAST I LEARNED A FEW THINGS ON THIS TRIP...

...AND FOUND SOMETHING THAT CAN HELP ME WITH A MYSTERY IN METROPOLIS WHEN WE GET HOME.

WELL...YOU WANT TO TALK ABOUT IT?

WHAT DO I NEED TO TALK ABOUT?

C'MON. I'VE HAD MY FAIR SHARE OF TIME-TRAVEL ADVENTURES.

DID YOU JUST INSPIRE ***YOURSELF*** TO BECOME A HERO?

SOMETHING LIKE THAT.

WELL, NOW THAT I KNOW THE START OF THE STORY...I'D LOVE TO KNOW THE REST OF IT.

FAIR ENOUGH...

"I MIGHT NOT HAVE HAD POWERS LIKE YOU, BUT I WAS INSPIRED TO STAND UP FOR THE OPPRESSED AND SAVE LIVES. EVENTUALLY I BECAME KNOWN AS THE ***SPIRIT OF METROPOLIS.*** ...THE ORIGINAL NAMESAKE OF THE CITY YOU CALL HOME.

"IT WAS THE ADVENTURE OF A LIFETIME, BUT ALSO A YOUNG'UN'S GAME. ONE DAY I HAD TO HANG IT UP. MOST FOLKS THOUGHT I DISAPPEARED BECAUSE I CAUGHT A BULLET OR SOME OTHER TRAGIC END...

"...BUT I WAS ONE OF THE LUCKY ONES.

"I PASSED AWAY SURROUNDED BY MY FAMILY AND FRIENDS. I WAS AT PEACE KNOWING THAT I DID THE RIGHT THING AND DIDN'T HAVE TO SACRIFICE ***NOTHING.***

"UNTIL SOMEONE TOOK THAT AWAY FROM ME.

"THEY KNEW THAT MY LEGEND LIVED ON IN METROPOLIS, AND THEY USED THAT. BROUGHT ME BACK AND TURNED ME INTO A GHOST. MORE SCIENCE THAN SUPERNATURAL.

"AND UNTIL I FIND OUT WHO DID IT, I AM FORCED TO RIDE UNDER THE MOON'S LIGHT FOREVER...SO I JUST KEEP ON HELPING THE PEOPLE I CAN."

I THINK I MIGHT KNOW WHO BROUGHT YOU BACK...BUT I DON'T KNOW WHY.

I RECKON YOU DO.

BEEP

NOW CAN I ASK *YOU* A QUESTION?

SHOOT.

DID YOU KNOW YOU HAD ENOUGH SUN TO BE INVULNERABLE TO TERRA-MAN'S BULLETS?

TERRA-MAN IS ONE OF THOSE PEOPLE WHO, WHEN THEY SEE ME, JUST SEE THE SMILE AND THE CAPE AND UNDERESTIMATE ME. I HAVE LEARNED TO USE THAT TO MY ADVANTAGE.

SPEAKING OF THAT SUN...

THAT'S MY CUE...SEE YA, SUPERMAN.

WE'LL FIND WHO BROUGHT YOU BACK AND PUT YOU TO PEACE, MARILYN.

I PROMISE...

I understand why my father idolized what we saw in those movies.

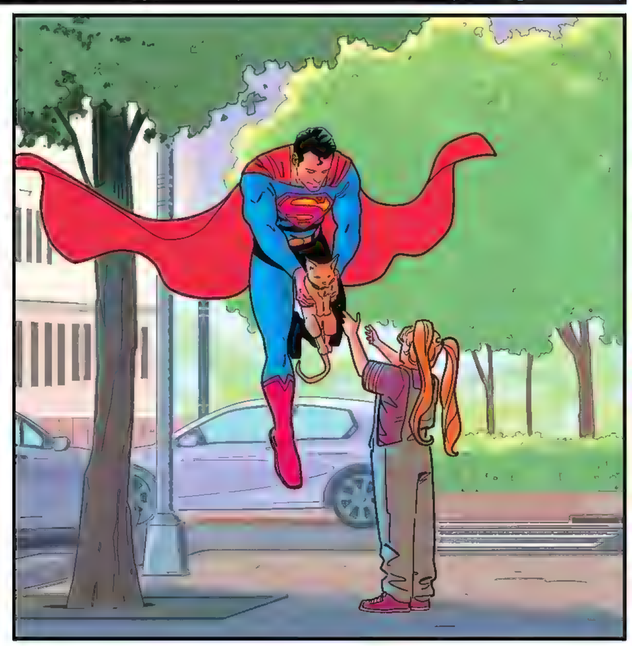
The past is a nice place to visit...

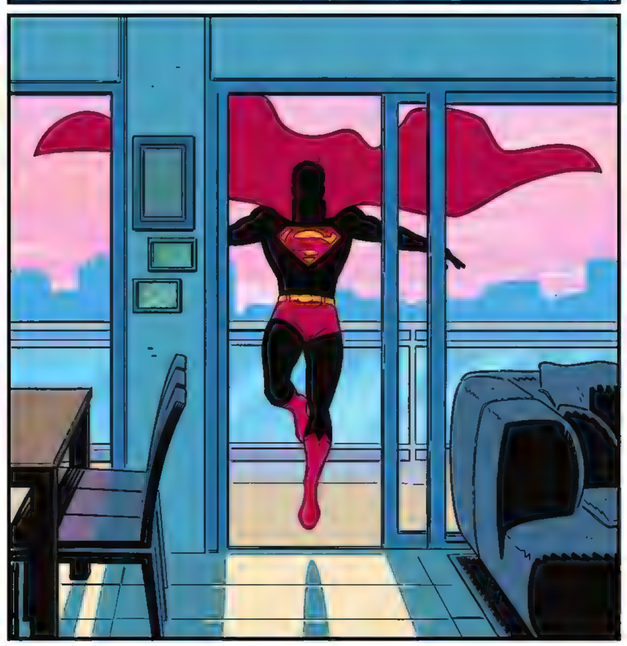
...but I wouldn't want to live there.

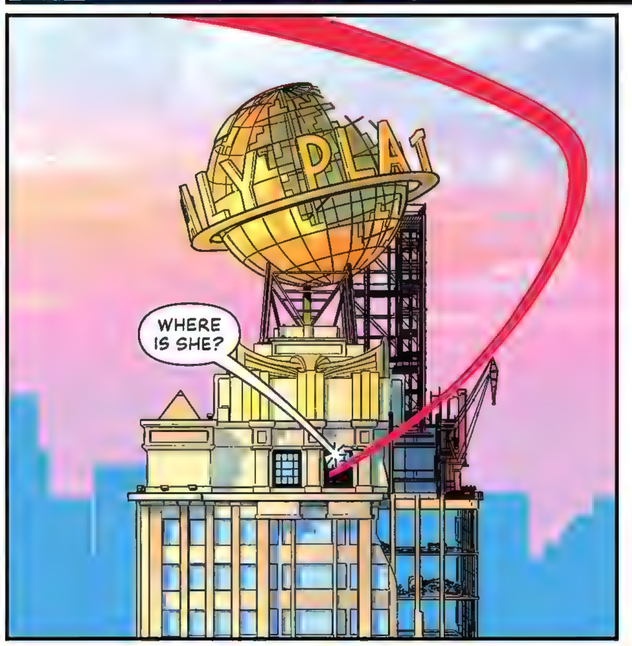
And nowhere is home without <u>you</u>.

I'll be home soon. And I'll hand you this letter myself.

Love, Clark.







MERCY?
LOIS?
HELLO? WHERE IS--
SUPERMAN, YOU HAVE TO RUN!
LENA?
WHAT HAPPENED?
PLEASE, FLY AWAY, PLEASE!

TWK

KRYPTONITE...?

SUPERMAN, YOU HAVE TO GO *NOW.*

SHE--

NO, LENA. I WON'T--

ZAAPPP

TNG

I'VE KNOWN THIS DAY WOULD COME SINCE I WAS A LITTLE BOY...

...AND NOW OUR...

HHKSSHH

...LEX LUTHOR REVENGE SQUAD IS JUST MISSING ONE CRUCIAL ELEMENT IN OUR MISSION TO MAKE LEX PAY FOR HIS CRIMES.

A MEMBER WHO HAS BEEN WRONGED BY THAT BALD CHARLATAN COUNTLESS TIMES...

...YOU, SUPERMAN.

JOIN US OR WATCH METROPOLIS FALL.

How did we get here? Check out the next issue for answers in "LENA LUTHOR VS. THE REVENGE SQUAD!"

Superman #11 cover
by JAMAL CAMPBELL

Superman #11 variant cover
by LEE BERMEJO

EVERY MOVE MY BROTHER AND I HAVE MADE HAS BEEN BUILDING TO THIS MOMENT.

"TESTING YOUR LIMITS AND RESOLVE.

"USING THE PEOPLE IN YOUR LIFE. ALLIES AND ENEMIES.

"ALTERING THEIR POWERS IN NEW, DANGEROUS WAYS.

"FREEING *THE CHAINED* FROM HIS DECADES-LONG IMPRISONMENT BY LEX TO MAKE YOU QUESTION HIM...

"EVEN THE COSTS OF YOUR BATTLE FOR METROPOLIS WERE ALL PART OF OUR GAME..."

HOLD ON, CHAINED. THE DEATH OF THE MAN OF STEEL WON'T SERVE OUR NEEDS.

WE NEED HIM TO JOIN US. KILLING LEX WOULD BE TOO EASY. WE WANT TO DESTROY EVERYTHING LEX CARES ABOUT...

THE KRYPTONITE GAS... HOW...?

...BUT THE CHALLENGE IS THAT LEX CARES FOR SO LITTLE. WHAT IS THE BEST WAY TO REALLY HURT HIM?

HIS COMPANY? METROPOLIS?

OR HIS LEGACY...?

SUPERMAN!

EXCEPT NOW HE DOESN'T HAVE HIS FRIENDS TO HELP HIM, GRAFT!

THIS TIME I'LL KILL YOU FIRST, SUPERMAN!

REIGN IN HELL

A FEW HOURS EARLIER.
SUPERCORP TOWER.

HOW CAN I BE OF SERVICE, LENA?

I CAN ASK YOU ANY-THING, LL-01? ANYTHING AT ALL?

THAT IS CORRECT. I WAS DEVELOPED BY LEX LUTHOR TO ASSIST SUPERMAN IN HIS ACTIVITIES RUNNING *SUPERCORP.*

HENCE, MY SYSTEMS HAVE FULL ACCESS TO SUPERCORP'S DATA, INCLUDING LEX LUTHOR'S PERSONAL FILES.

REALLY? HM.

OKAY...

WHO IS *LENA LUTHOR?*

LENA LUTHOR. DAUGHTER OF *LEX LUTHOR* AND *CONTESSA ERICA ALEXANDRA DEL PORTENZA.*

LEX LUTHOR GAVE HIS DAUGHTER TO *BRAINIAC 13* IN EXCHANGE FOR ADVANCED TECHNOLOGY FROM THE FUTURE.

"GAVE"...

LENA WAS RAISED IN THE FUTURE AND WAS FORCED TO BE AN AVATAR FOR BRAINIAC 13 IN THE PRESENT DAY.

FOLLOWING THE EVENTS OF THE *IMPERIEX WAR,* LENA WAS RESCUED BY SUPERMAN AND RETURNED TO LEX LUTHOR.

AFTER LEX PURGED LENA OF ALL CONNECTIONS TO BRAINIAC, LENA WAS THEN SENT TO LIVE ON A PRIVATE ISLAND WITH HER GRANDMOTHER *LETICIA LUTHOR.*

RECENTLY RETURNED TO METROPOLIS, LENA IS CURRENTLY AN EMPLOYEE OF SUPERCORP.

WOW, THAT'S *IT?*

I GUESS I THOUGHT THAT MAYBE IN MY FATHER'S OWN FILES HE'D HAVE MORE TO SAY ABOUT ME...

YOU ARE SO MUCH MORE THAN THOSE *WORDS,* LENA.

THE REALITY IS... YOU *SCARE* LEX.

AND NOT JUST BECAUSE YOU REPRESENT HIS GREATEST SIN...

...BUT BECAUSE YOU ARE SO MUCH *SMARTER* THAN MY SON.

YOUR FATHER IS PART OF A LONG LINE OF SELFISH PEOPLE WHO GRIND DOWN ANYONE THEY SEE AS A THREAT.

I BLAME MYSELF. I TRIED TO PROTECT HIM WHEN HE WAS YOUNG, BUT ONCE I SAW HE WAS A LOST CAUSE, I LEFT--

I'VE HEARD HOW MUCH YOU HATE HIM, OKAY? I GET IT, GRANDMA.

THEN WHY DID YOU CHOOSE *HERE* OF ALL PLACES TO WORK?

BECAUSE OF LEX'S INCARCERATION, YOU FINALLY GET OFF THAT CURSED ISLAND HE BANISHED US TO, AND YOU *STILL* CHOOSE TO WORK FOR YOUR FATHER'S COMPANY?

IT'S NOT *HIS* COMPANY, REMEMBER?

IT'S *SUPERMAN'S* COMPANY NOW.

HM.

AND *THIS* IS YOUR ACT OF *SPITE,* IS THAT IT?

MAYBE YOU'RE MORE LIKE *ME* THAN--

OKAY, PEOPLE, LISTEN UP!

WE'VE GOT A MISSING ***SUPERMAN.***

I NEED EVERY DEPARTMENT ON THE CASE.

SUPERNATURAL, TIME-TRAVEL, THE GODSPHERE, MULTIVERSE, WHATEVER.

CHECK EVERY CORNER OF EXISTENCE, IF YOU HAVE TO.

WE NEED TO FIND SUPERMAN ***NOW.***

SUPERMAN IS GONE?

WHAT AN UNFORTUNATE TURN OF EVENTS.

LENA, WHERE ARE YOU GOING?

TO HELP MERCY!

ACCESS THE ***SUPER-ARMOR'S*** ONBOARD SECURITY.

PULL UP THE CAMERAS AND THE VITALS.

SHOW ME WHAT HAPPENED AGAIN.

LOOKS LIKE OUR GUY WAS WINNING, BUT THEN ***MR. GRAFT*** HIT MARILYN MOONLIGHT WITH A BLAST FROM HIS KLAW.*

THEN SUPERMAN WAS JUST ***GONE.*****

IF ONLY I WAS NOT TRAPPED IN THIS INFERNAL PRISON CELL, I COULD BE OF MORE HELP.

PATCH ME INTO THE SUIT'S DIAGNOSTICS, ***MERCY.***

I NEED TO SEE IF IT PICKED UP ANYTHING ON MOONLIGHT. I HAVE AN IDEA...

STRYKER'S ISLAND PENITENTIARY

*IN *SUPERMAN* #9 --PK

**TRAPPED IN THE OLD WEST-- GREAT SCOTT! --PK AGAIN

YOU GOT IT, ***MR. LUTHOR.***

WHILE YOU DO THAT...

GREEN KRYPTONITE IS ALREADY SUPER RARE. THE OTHER COLORS ARE NEXT TO ***IMPOSSIBLE*** TO FIND.

HOW DID THEY GET THEIR HANDS ON THEM...?

SUPERCORP FILE

Green Red Yellow Blue Black White

WHAT DO YOU MEAN YOU LOST HIM?

WE'LL GET SUPERMAN BACK, LOIS.

MR. LUTHOR HAS A THEORY.

OF COURSE HE DOES...

I HEARD THAT, LANE...

MARILYN MOONLIGHT'S POWERS OPERATE ON A SPECTRAL LEVEL. WE SHOULD START THERE.

I'VE RUN OUR INITIAL TESTS BY THE SUPERNATURAL FORENSICS DEPARTMENT'S TOP MINDS AND--

ACTUALLY, FATHER, THAT WAS A WASTE OF TIME.

JUDGING BY ***YOUR*** ENEMIES' RECENT ACTIONS TOWARD PARASITE AND SILVER BANSHEE, PHARM AND GRAFT ARE USING KRYPTONITE TO CREATE DIFFERENT REACTIONS IN THEIR VICTIMS. WE NEED TO--

WHOOO WHOOO WHOOO

WHAT ***NOW?***

THAT'S ODD. SOMETHING TRIGGERED THE ALARMS ON THE LOWER LEVELS...

WHOOO WHOOO WHOOO

OH NO... WHEREVER ***SUPERMAN*** IS NOW...

...WE NEED HIM TO ***STAY THERE.***

"IT'S *PHARM AND GRAFT.*

SUPERCORP, ACTIVATE SAFE ROOM PROCEDURES ***NOW.***

CLEAR OUT. DROP WHATEVER YOU'RE DOING AND ***GO.***

OH NO... THEY'RE HEADED TOWARD ***THE CHAINED'S*** CELL...IF THEY FREE HIM...

YOU SAID, "WE NEED HIM TO STAY THERE"...

WHY WOULDN'T WE WANT SUPERMAN HERE, MERCY?

THE LAST TIME WE SAW SUPERMAN, HE HAD SEVERE KRYPTONITE POISONING.

GRAFT HAS THAT KRYPTONITE KLAW, AND IF IT COMES INTO CONTACT WITH SUPERMAN, IT COULD KILL HIM.

WE CAN'T LET THAT HAPPEN.

BOOM

MERCY IS DOWN, GRAFT. SUPERCORP'S SYSTEMS WILL BE OURS SOON.

AFTER I CONTAIN A FEW OTHER ELEMENTS.

ARMOR: ACTIVATE NONLETHAL CONTAINMENT...

SORRY, LANE.

DAD, WHY ARE YOU DOING THIS?!

WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT, LENA? WHAT IS THAT SOUND?!

WAIT...IF YOU'RE STILL IN *STRYKER'S*, THEN WHO IS...?

I'M TAKING BACK WHAT IS MINE, LENA.

SSH

LEX DIDN'T START THIS COMPANY.

I DID.

THEN HE *STOLE IT FROM ME,* EMBARRASSED ME, AND SENT ME TO SOME ISLAND TO BABYSIT HIS LITTLE BRAT.

THE LEAST HE COULD HAVE DONE WAS *KILL ME.*

GRANDMA...

WHAT...

...WHAT ARE YOU DOING?

SOMETHING I SHOULD HAVE DONE A LONG TIME AGO.

BLAST

BLAST

BLAST

NO!

C'MON, THERE HAS TO BE SOMEONE HERE WHO CAN HELP ME...

MERCY? LOIS? HELLO? WHERE IS--

SUPERMAN, YOU HAVE TO RUN!

LENA?

WHAT HAPPENED?

PLEASE, FLY AWAY, PLEASE!

BACK TO NOW...

...BUT THE CHALLENGE IS THAT LEX CARES ABOUT SO LITTLE. WHAT IS THE BEST WAY TO REALLY *HURT HIM?*

HIS COMPANY?

METROPOLIS?

OR HIS *LEGACY...?*

IT'S TIME, SUPERMAN.

JOIN US...

HELP US DESTROY LEX LUTHOR ONCE AND FOR ALL.

NEVER!

YOU MISUNDERSTAND ME, SUPERMAN.

WE EXPECTED RESISTANCE.

BUT INDULGE ME FOR A MOMENT WHILE I TELL YOU A SECRET.

THE KRYPTONITE THAT MY KLAW USES IS ALL *SYNTHETIC*.

ENGINEERED IN OUR LABS...

"WE WERE ABLE TO GET OUR HANDS ON SOMETHING CLOSE ENOUGH TO *YOUR* PHYSIOLOGY TO RUN SOME PRELIMINARY EXPERIMENTS.*

*AS SEEN WAY BACK IN *SUPERMAN* #1! --PULL-LIST PAUL

"IT TOOK TIME. TRIAL AND ERROR THE LAST FEW MONTHS, BUT WE MANAGED TO *CRACK IT.*"

AND WE'VE HARNESSED THE KRYPTONITE IN WAYS NEVER SEEN BEFORE...

EACH COLOR HAS A SPECIAL QUALITY.

RED KRYPTONITE DOES SOMETHING DIFFERENT TO YOU EACH TIME.

BUT I DID MY RESEARCH AND SAW THAT ONCE UPON A TIME...

...IT MADE YOU ANGRY.

WHOOSH

WHOOSH

WHOOSH

AND NOW OUR *FAMILY* IS COMPLETE.

IT'S TIME LUTHOR *PAYS* FOR WHAT HE'S DONE.

NOT JUST TO *US*...

...BUT TO THE WORLD.

SUPERMAN, NO!

THIS ISN'T YOU!

PLEASE DON'T DO THIS! DON'T KILL MY DAD!

STOP, LENA. THIS IS FOR THE BEST. YOUR FATHER HAS HAD THIS COMING A LONG TIME.

GRANDMA, *PLEASE*...

LETICIA. LET YOUR DARLING GRANDDAUGHTER GO.

YOU HAVE *OTHER* ENGAGEMENTS.

YOU'RE RIGHT...NOW THAT SUPERMAN HAS SEEN THE LIGHT...

...IT'S TIME TO EXECUTE THE ***NEXT STEP*** OF OUR PLANS.

SUPERMAN, PLEASE, ***DON'T...***

HOW CAN YOU DEFEND HIM? AFTER WHAT HE DID TO ***YOU,*** LENA?

GRAFT, JUST AS WHEN WE FIRST MET, YOU STILL LACK THE ABILITY TO SEE THE WHOLE BOARD IN OUR GAME.

AND YOU'VE MADE A CRITICAL ***ERROR.***

OH REALLY, LEX? ***ENLIGHTEN ME.***

NO ONE WANTS AN ANGRY SUPERMAN.

DOES HE ***SCARE*** YOU?

GRAFT... YOU'RE ASSUMING HE'S ONLY ANGRY WITH ***ME.***

WHAT? WHO ELSE WOULD HE BE...

OH NO...

AAHHHHHH!

SMACK

THUMP

THIS IS WHY YOU SHOULD HAVE LET ME--

UK.

BOOM

LENA... RUN.

NO WAY, WE NEED TO FIND A WAY TO HELP SUPERMAN!

LUTHOR!

GRAFT WAS RIGHT!

AFTER EVERYTHING YOU'VE DONE TO ME.

WHAT YOU STOLE FROM ME.

YOU DESERVE TO DIE!

NOT TODAY.

SHUNK

WHAT DID YOU DO?

WHAT I HAD TO.

LONG AGO I HYPOTHESIZED THAT THE GREEN KRYPTONITE COULD NEGATE THE EFFECTS OF THE RED...

I HATE TO ADMIT IT, BUT I WASN'T SURE THAT WOULD WORK.

DAD, HE'S DYING!

I KNOW, LENA...WE MUST--

IT DOESN'T MATTER. IT'S TOO LATE.

WE TOLD YOU BEFORE. THIS WAS NOT JUST ABOUT KILLING LEX.

LEX ONLY CARES ABOUT *HIMSELF.*

AND HIS *LEGACY.*

SO WE'VE UNLEASHED SOMETHING THAT WILL RUIN LEX *FOREVER.*

AND NOW LETICIA WILL ENSURE THE WORLD WILL KNOW LEX DID THIS.

IS THAT... KRYPTONITE?

BUT THAT DOESN'T REALLY HURT HUMANS.

OH, BUT IT DOES...

KRYPTONITE RADIATION CAN IMPACT A HUMAN... *OVER TIME.*

LEX LEARNED THAT THE HARD WAY...

WHAT IF WE CREATED A NEW KIND OF KRYPTONITE THAT ALSO AFFECTED *HUMANS* IN THE SAME AMOUNT OF TIME IT DOES *SUPERMAN?*

THIS WAS YOUR PLAN ALL ALONG...TO MAKE KRYPTONITE THAT CAN KILL ANYONE?

HA!

I'M FLATTERED, SUPERMAN...BUT WE ARE NOT THE ARCHITECTS OF THIS PLOT.

WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?

SUPERMAN...

THIS WAS NOT GRAFT OR PHARM'S PLAN AT ALL...

"THIS WAS MY PLAN

"I CREATED IT YEARS AGO

"AND NOW ALL OF METROPOLIS WILL PAY FOR MY GENIUS."

NEXT ISSUE:

"LEX LUTHOR VS. TRUTH!"

Superman #12 cover
by JAMAL CAMPBELL

Superman #12 variant cover
by LEE BERMEJO

SUPERCORP TOWER. METROPOLIS.

IT'S WORKING.

FOR YEARS MY DEAR BROTHER AND I DREAMED OF METROPOLIS AS OUR VERY OWN *PETRI DISH*...

"...AND NOW, BEFORE MY VERY EYES, HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS OF PEOPLE PERISH FROM *ADVANCED KRYPTONITE POISONING.*

"AND THE WORLD WILL KNOW IT WAS BECAUSE OF *LEX LUTHOR.*"

THE CHAINED AND *PHARM* ARE STILL KNOCKED OUT...

BUT I NEED TO GET OUT THERE. STOP *LETICIA*...

IF YOU DO YOU WILL *DIE.*

AS YOU SHOULD, *SUPERMAN.*

YOU REJECTED OUR OFFER TO JOIN OUR *LEX LUTHOR REVENGE SQUAD*...

NOW YOU WILL PAY. *YOUR FATE IS SEALED.*

OH, SHUT UP.

GOD, DID I EVER MONOLOGUE THAT MUCH, SUPERMAN?

SOMETIMES... WHERE DID YOU FIND THAT ARMOR?

I'M GOING OUT THERE. SUPERCORP CAN SECURE ***CHAINED*** AND ***PHARM*** WHILE I STOP MY ***MOTHER*** FROM KILLING ***MY*** CITY.

LUTHOR... I'LL GO.

USE YOUR HEAD. THE ALTERED KRYPTONITE I CREATED HAS ACCELERATED EFFECTS.

IF YOU GOT EVEN A CRACK IN THE ARMOR DURING THE FIGHT, IT WOULD KILL YOU INSTANTLY.

THE SAME GOES FOR ***YOU.***

IT WILL TAKE A BIT LONGER.

JUST ENOUGH TIME TO SAVE SOME LIVES AND POTENTIALLY STOP MY MOTHER.

THIS IS ALL MY FAULT, SO IF I DIE TODAY...

...SO BE IT.

WE CAN'T LET HIM DO THIS.

YES WE CAN.

AND WE'RE GOING TO HELP HIM.

LL-01?

YES, SUPERMAN. HOW CAN I BE OF ASSISTANCE?

ACCESS THE ***BUILDING'S*** COMMUNICATIONS... PUT OUT A MESSAGE...

ALL SUPERCORP EMPLOYEES LEFT INSIDE THE BUILDING.

REPORT TO MY OFFICE IMMEDIATELY.

WE'VE GOT WORK TO DO.

LISTEN UP, EVERYONE...

I KNOW WE HAVEN'T SPENT MUCH TIME TOGETHER...

...AT FIRST, I WASN'T SURE WHAT TO MAKE OF THIS SUPER-CORP.

BUT YOU HAVE SHOWN ME HOW MUCH YOU WANT TO HELP MAKE NOT JUST METROPOLIS, BUT THE ***WORLD*** A BETTER PLACE.

I MIGHT NOT BE ABLE TO LEAVE THIS BUILDING, BUT I CAN STILL SAVE METROPOLIS WITH ***YOUR*** HELP.

WHILE LUTHOR ENGAGES WITH LETICIA OUTSIDE, WE WILL ASSIST HIM.

EXPLORE EVERY OPTION. EVERY TOOL AT OUR DISPOSAL. LEAVE NO STONE UNTURNED.

I'VE BEEN TOLD YOU ARE THE FINEST MINDS IN THE WORLD, AND I BELIEVE THAT TOGETHER WE CAN FIND A WAY TO REVERSE WHAT PHARM, GRAFT, ***AND*** LUTHOR DID TO CREATE THIS NEW KRYPTONITE GAS ATTACK...

NOW GO.

YES, SIR.

SUPERMAN...?

WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU'RE DOING?

KRYPTONITE HAS BEEN TRYING TO KILL ME SINCE I WAS A TEENAGER.

YOU REALLY THINK I HAVEN'T STUDIED IT MYSELF?

YOU WILL HAVE TO REVERSE ENGINEER ***MY*** WORK, AND THEN COME UP WITH A WAY TO NEGATE ITS EFFECTS IN RECORD TIME.

IN ESSENCE, YOU NEED TO BEAT ***MY*** OWN GENIUS.

AND?

HM.

BUT TO DO THAT, I NEED SOMETHING FROM YOU.

GO ON.

TELL ME THE TRUTH.

WHAT ***REALLY*** HAPPENED WITH GRAFT AND PHARM.

...

FINE.

"IT STARTED A LIFETIME AGO, WHEN I FELT LIKE I WAS ALL ALONE IN NOT JUST *SMALLVILLE*... BUT THE *UNIVERSE*...

Welcome to SMALLVILLE

"I FOUND SOMETHING THAT GAVE ME HOPE THINGS COULD BE DIFFERENT.

THERE MUST BE *MORE* HERE.

IT DOESN'T MATCH ANY ELEMENT I'VE SEEN IN ANY BOOK.

UNIQUE.

HOW CAN SOMETHING SO *RARE* AND *PRECIOUS* BE FOUND IN THIS SMALL TOWN?

IT'S PROOF THAT THERE IS SOMETHING SO MUCH *GREATER* OUT THERE.

DID IT JUST DROP... OUT OF THE SKY?

EXCUSE ME?

WHAT ARE YOU DOING ON MY FAMILY'S FARM?

NOTHING YOU'D UNDERSTAND.

LEX, IT'S ME, *CLARK*. WE GO TO SCHOOL TOGETHER.

I WOULD HARDLY CALL THAT PLACE A *SCHOOL*.

IF YOU'RE INTERESTED IN FARMING, I'M SURE MY DAD WOULD LOVE TO SHOW YOU A FEW THINGS...

HOW DARE YOU?

FARMING?!

I WAS JUST... UGH...

...I DON'T FEEL SO GOOD.

IT'S THE AIR IN SMALLVILLE!

IT REEKS OF *DESPERATION*.

AS SOON AS I CAN, I'M DITCHING THIS TOWN.

AND I DID. I KNEW THAT MY FUTURE WAS IN

"...METROPOLIS.

"THE CITY OF TOMORROW WOULD FINALLY EARN ITS NAME NOW THAT I WAS THERE. MY GENIUS WOULD BE APPRECIATED.

"I WAS TELLING THE *TRUTH* ABOUT MY TIME AS A *HERO!*

"THAT I CAME TO THE CITY AND WANTED TO HELP PEOPLE.

"...AND AS YOU'VE MET, I EVEN HAD MY OWN ARCHNEMESES...

DR. PHARM AND MR. GRAFT!

IT'S TIME WE FINALLY END THIS ONCE AND FOR ALL.

"AFTER MONTHS OF SKIRMISHES, I FINALLY HAD THEM IN MY SIGHTS, BUT THEN...

WAIT...

"...KRYPTONITE."

"THE SUBSTANCE THAT HAD BEEN MY ***OBSESSION*** SINCE I FOUND THE PIECE IN THAT FIELD BACK IN SMALLVILLE. I NEEDED TO UNDERSTAND IT. NO MATTER THE COST..."

HOW DID YOU FIND MORE?

YOU JUST NEED TO KNOW WHERE AND ***HOW*** TO LOOK.

MY BROTHER AND I HAVE BEEN STUDYING IT FOR YEARS.

SO HAVE I. IT'S SO MUCH MORE THAN A POWER SOURCE. I BELIEVE IT COULD CHANGE THE WORLD...

WE'RE ALL MEN OF SCIENCE, CORRECT? THERE IS NO GOOD OR BAD. MERELY... ***IDEAS.***

WHAT IF WE SET ASIDE OUR DIFFERENCES? WORK ***TOGETHER?***

"WE CAME TO AN UNDERSTANDING. A SHARING OF RESEARCH

"THE BROTHERS HAD BOMBARDED THE KRYPTONITE WITH DIFFERENT LEVELS OF RADIATION TO STUDY ITS QUALITIES. TOGETHER, WE NOTICED IT ***REACTED*** TO RADIATION FROM EARTH'S YELLOW SUN..."

AND YOU BETRAYED THEM AND STOLE IT? AND THEN WHAT...RAN THEM OUT OF TOWN?

OUR GOALS DID NOT ALIGN REGARDING HOW TO BEST ***USE*** OUR DISCOVERY.

BUT YES. I TOOK WHAT I NEEDED AND DISCARDED THE BROTHERS WHEN THEY WERE NO LONGER CONVENIENT TO MY--

THAT SOUNDS FAMILIAR!

JUST LIKE WHAT YOU DID TO ME!

WHEN YOU CAME TO METROPOLIS, I TOOK YOU IN. SHOWED YOU THE COMPANY I WAS BUILDING.

AND YOU *TOOK* IT FROM ME!

YOU LACKED VISION, *MOTHER.*

HOW DID YOU EVEN FIND PHARM AND GRAFT?

I DIDN'T!

THEY FOUND ME!

THOM

LEX SAID HE HAD BEEN USING SOLAR RADIATION TO ALTER THE KRYPTONITE... TO POWER IT UP. JUST LIKE THE SUN POWERS *ME*...

SUPERMAN, SIR. WE TRIED TO TAKE MS. LANE AND MS. GRAVES TO THE INFIRMARY, BUT THEY REFUSED...

TELL ME HOW WE CAN HELP.

CAN ANYONE FILL ME IN ON WHAT THE HELL IS GOING ON?

YOU OKAY?

I SURE HOPE SO...

WE'LL TALK LATER, MS. LANE.

WE NEED TO RESET THE KRYPTONITE BACK TO ITS ORIGINAL STATE, MERCY.

ONCE WE CRACK *THAT* PROCESS, WE SHOULD BE ABLE TO DO THE SAME WITH THE KRYPTONITE GAS OVER METROPOLIS.

WE NEED SOMETHING THAT CAN *FILTER* IT...

DR. SHAWN. DO YOU HAVE THAT TOXIN FILTER YOU WERE WORKING ON?*

I DO. ONE SECOND.

*FROM *SUPERMAN* #6! --PK

YOU'LL NEED A ***MASSIVE BATTERY*** THAT CAN DRAIN THE RADIATION...

WE ALREADY HAVE ONE, MERCY. PHARM AND GRAFT SHOWED US FROM THE START...

"PARASITE."

I'VE BEEN GOOD, SUPERMAN. I WANT TO HELP.

AND YOU *ARE*, RUDY.

I PROMISE, I'LL BE WITH YOU THE WHOLE TIME. THIS WON'T HURT.

LENA?

ENERGY TRANSFER STARTING.

YOU SURE THIS IS GOING TO *WORK*, SUPERMAN?

WHEN GRAFT SENT ME BACK IN TIME...

I FOUND A VERY YOUNG *PHARM AND GRAFT'S* OWN RESEARCH ON MANIPULATING ELEMENTS. IT GAVE ME A GLIMPSE INTO SOME OF WHAT THEY'VE BEEN DOING SINCE THEY RETURNED TO METROPOLIS

HOW'RE YOU FEELING, RUDY?

THIS IS THE BEST MEAL I'VE EVER HAD!

IT'S WORKING! THE SOLAR ENERGY IS DRAINING!

MR. LUTHOR, WE HAVE IT! WE CAN REVERSE WHAT YOU DID TO THE KRYPTONITE!

ELIMINATING THE THREAT IN FRONT OF ME IS MY FIRST PRIORITY. I CAN'T LET MOTHER ESCAPE.

THAK

LUTHOR, PEOPLE WILL DIE.

LISTEN TO ME, SUPERMAN. I KNOW--

NO, YOU LISTEN TO ME.

YOUR PRIORITY RIGHT NOW IS SAVING LIVES, NOT TAKING DOWN YOUR MOTHER.

WE'RE SENDING THE DATA TO YOUR SUIT'S COMPUTER. YOU SHOULD BE ABLE TO SEND OUT A WAVE OF ENERGY INTO THE RADIATION CLOUDS THAT WILL NEGATE THE KRYPTONITE AND DISPERSE THEM.

LUTHOR?

ARE YOU A CHANGED MAN OR *NOT?*

FINE.

TZZZ-WHHOOSSSH

STILL JUST AS FOOLISH AS WHEN YOU WERE A BOY, LITTLE LEXY.

ARMOR...

SWITCH WEAPONS TO ***EXTREME*** MEASURES.

I BROUGHT YOU INTO THIS WORLD...

LEX IS ALMOST DONE. THE KRYPTONITE RADIATION CLOUDS HAVE COMPLETELY DISPERSED.

METROPOLIS WILL BE SAVED IF MR. LUTHOR CAN HOLD OUT JUST A LITTLE BIT LONGER.

LL-01?

YES, LENA.

MY GRAND-MOTHER'S ARMOR...

"IS IT CONNECTED TO THE REST OF MY *FATHER'S* ARMOR? TO THE SUPERCORP REMOTE SYSTEMS?"

"YES."

"CAN YOU SHUT IT DOWN?"

"NOT WITHOUT SHUTTING DOWN LEX LUTHOR'S AS WELL."

DO IT.

...AND I CAN TAKE YOU--

MY ARMOR!

WHAT...?

NO!

K-CHOOOW

K-CHOOOW

GOT YA.

SORRY--I WOULD HAVE BEEN HERE SOONER, BUT I NEEDED TO STOP AT HOME FOR A SPARE CAPE.

YOU SHOULD HAVE STAYED AWAY FROM METROPOLIS, MOTHER.

WELL... YOU BEAT ME.

I SEE IT MORE AS *WE* BEAT YOU...

LEX!

SUPER-MAN!

CLAP CLAP CLAP CLAP

TSH

WE GOT LUCKY TODAY

"GRAFT, PHARM, AND THE CHAINED STAYED *KNOCKED OUT* AFTER THEY USED THE RED KRYPTONITE ON ME

"WE WERE ABLE TO KEEP THEM SECURE AT SUPERCORP UNTIL THE POLICE TRANSFER ARRIVED."

"I NOTICED MY OLD FRIENDS AND FAMILY ARE *NOT* HOUSED WITH ME HERE IN *STRYKER'S.*"

"THIS IS HARDLY THE LAST WE WILL BE HEARING OF MY *'REVENGE SQUAD'*."

"KEEPING THEM ANYWHERE NEAR YOU WAS PLAYING WITH FIRE, SO WE PLACED THEM AT A TEMPORARY OFFSITE HIGH-SECURITY FACILITY UNTIL WE CAN CREATE THE PROPER CELLS FOR THEM HERE."

"I'LL KEEP AN EYE ON THEM."

AND EARS, I ASSUME...?

MERCY RAVED ABOUT YOUR ACTIONS AT SUPERCORP TODAY.

I'M GLAD YOU FINALLY EMBRACED WHAT I OFFERED YOU.

THAT YOU UNDERSTAND WE CAN DO GREAT THINGS ***TOGETHER.***

GOOD PEOPLE WORK AT SUPERCORP, LUTHOR. SO I'LL DO IT ***FOR THEM.***

BUT THERE IS SOMETHING I NEED YOU TO TELL ME...

IS THERE ANYTHING ELSE I NEED TO KNOW? ANY OTHER LIES?

NOT TO MY RECOLLECTION.

LUTHOR.

NO.

"And you believe him?"

HIS HEART RATE DIDN'T BUDGE.

STILL, I MUST ADMIT...

...I LIKED RUNNING SUPER-CORP TODAY. LET ME STRETCH MUSCLES I DON'T NORMALLY GET TO.

MAYBE LEX WAS RIGHT. IT'S BETTER IN YOUR HANDS THAN HIS, ANYWAY.

LOOK AT THIS...

NOT ONLY DID JIMMY ***NOT*** BURN THE *PLANET* DOWN...HE ACTUALLY GOT THE PAPER OUT THIS MORNING.

LEX LUTHOR SAVES METROPOLIS?

NOT THE HEADLINE I WOULD HAVE WRITTEN BUT...

HE BLEEDS INK, JUST LIKE YOU, LOIS.

I KNOW... MAYBE IT'S TIME ***HE*** LEVELED UP, TOO.

BUT NOW THAT THIS IS ALL OVER...

...HOW ABOUT YOU AND I TAKE A QUICK TRIP TO PARIS FOR DINNER? JUST THE TWO OF US...

LOIS... HONEY...

OH NO, I KNOW THAT FACE. WHAT'S GOING ON IN YOUR HEAD, SMALL-VILLE?

SMASH

THERE IS A MISSING PIECE THAT HAS BUGGED ME SINCE THE START.

THIS GAME WITH LEX ISN'T OVER...

FINALLY, THE MAIN MAN IS ***FRAGGING FREE!***

"LEX'S ENEMIES STAYED IN THE SHADOWS FOR ***YEARS***. KEPT ***SECRET.***

"WHY DID THEY DECIDE TO EMERGE AND LOOK FOR REVENGE AFTER ALL THAT TIME...?

WHAT RESTARTED THEIR GAME WITH LEX...?

"WHY NOW?"

WHY NOW, INDEED...

MORE STARTLING REVELATIONS BEGIN IN NEXT MONTH'S EPIC:

HOUSE OF BRAINIAC

PART ONE BEGINS IN *ACTION COMICS* #1064, THEN BRING IT ON BACK HERE FOR PART TWO IN *SUPERMAN* #13!

LUTHOR'S LEGACY... UNLEASHED!

The Man of Steel is challenged like never before when the menace called the Chained is freed from deep within Supercorp! Why did Lex Luthor imprison this mysterious foe there in the first place? And will even super-powered armor be enough to give an outmatched Superman the upper hand? Plus, new threats from a transformed Brainiac, the Lex Luthor Revenge Squad, and Luthor's mother and...daughter?!

This acclaimed new chapter in Superman's adventures teams all-star writer **JOSHUA WILLIAMSON** (*Batman and Robin*) with artists **BRUNO REDONDO** (Eisner Award winner for *Nightwing*), **GLEB MELNIKOV** (*Batman/Superman*), and **DAVID BALDEÓN** (*Power Girl*)!

Collects *Superman* (2023) #6-12.

VOL. 2

SON OF ULTRON

"THIS FAN... THIS MONSTER!"